



Moon Cakes A Tradition For Chinese on Moon Holiday

By Lillian Chan

Special holidays would not be as special if it were not for those traditional food dishes that go hand-in-hand with them. What would Thanksgiving be without a

turkey? Would July 4th festivities be the same if there were no hamburgers and hot dogs? And finally, how would the celebrations of the August Moon Festival (also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival) carry

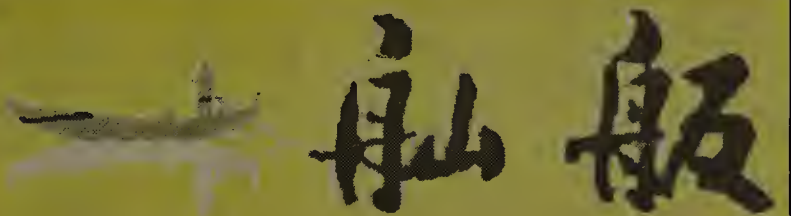
on if there were no mooncakes to be exchanged?

No mooncakes? Perish that thought. Mooncakes and the August Moon Festival are synonymous — you can't have one without the other. It's become a ritual that

during this time of the year people either go to the local Chinatown bakeries such as *Hing Shing Pastry* (67 Beach Street), *Ho Yuen Bakery* (54 Beach Street), and *Kam*

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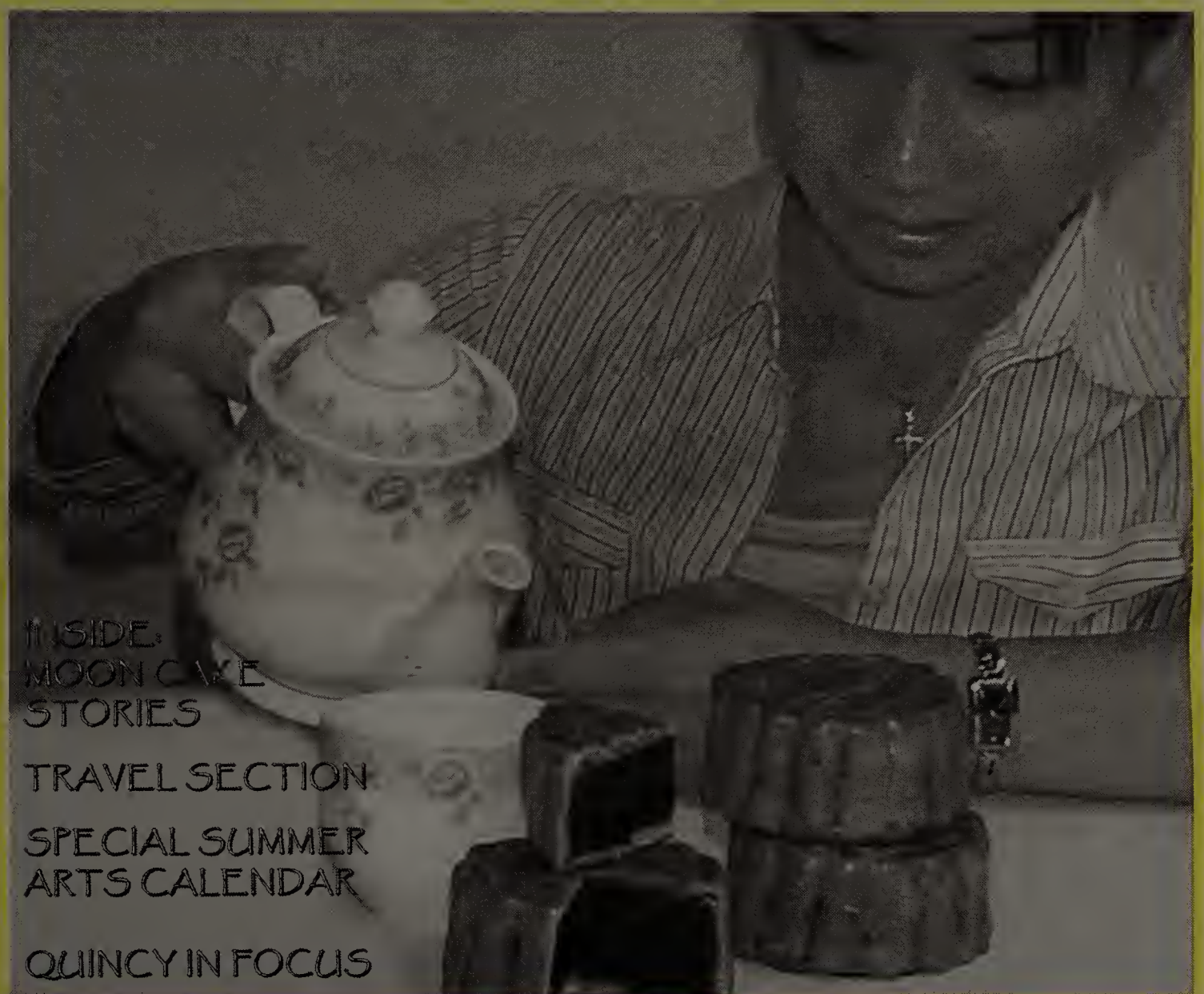
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"Regular Guy" Jimmy Liang To Run Again in Quincy

Sam Gaynor

He's been called a role model, inspiration, and a trailblazer. Some say that he is a savior to the large Asian American community in Quincy that is lacking a much-needed voice. William Flynn of the Patriot Ledger referred to him as a "breath of fresh air", and the newsletter "Black's Creek" named him "one of the more promising and attractive candidates for public office in Quincy".

Jimmy Liang, however, insists that he is just "an average guy," out to make a difference for the Asian community in Quincy.

"The number one reason I decided to run is the demographics in the city of Quincy," stated Liang, "I don't feel that the

city council represents all of Quincy's people, and I would like to see that changed.

I want to be part of a team that will steer the city in the right direction, as well as improving upon the city council's credibility by making sure it represents all of its people."

Liang immigrated to Boston from China with his family when he was four years old. He attended elementary school in Chinatown until 1986, at which time the second-grader and his family



SAMPAN PROFILE

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Chinatown Activists and Others Irate at BRA Meetings

By Adam Smith
Reported by Adam Smith and Tina Pak

Meetings last week and this week to discuss a developer's proposal for a special zoning mechanism turned into forums for neighborhood residents and activists to fire off complaints about Boston's development agency's handling of big projects in Chinatown and across the city.

The July 23 and July 30 public meetings were supposed to focus on Kensington Investment Company's

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August Moon Celebrations Come to Chinatown, Quincy



Recent August Moon festival/ Sampan file photo

By Sam Gaynor

For years, the August Moon Festival has taken place in China in order to celebrate the annual harvest. Mooncakes are swapped and eaten with tea, and people enjoy the company of others.

This year, the local festivities will take place in Chinatown on Aug. 3 and 17, and in Quincy on Aug. 24. The two places have the largest Asian communities in Massachusetts.

Quincy began hosting August Moon Festivals in 1995, as a direct result of the large number of Asian immigrants who have moved into the city. Last year, Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., directed by Kao Li,

took over the Quincy celebrations.

"Our vision is for this to become the premier Asian summer event on the South Shore," said Li. The event will take place at the North Quincy T Station parking lot from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Speakers from Quincy mayor's office will attend, as well as the Variasians, an Asian a Capella group.

Li said he hopes to move away from the traditional, strictly Asian feel of the festival.

"Although this year's celebration will have all of the conventional qualities of the August Moon Festival, there will also be much diversity in entertainment. Further, we are hoping to make the event more kid-friendly, by adding two moon walks, magicians, and watermelon eating contests," Li



PICTURE OF THE BIWEEK

Former Sampan editor, Catherine Anderson, visited the Sampan on Monday. In this photo taken that day, Anderson is holding a copy of the August 17, 1990, August Moon Special Edition of Sampan. She edited the English section of the paper from 1989 to 1992. She now lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Photo by A. Smith

stated.

Chinatown in Boston will be home to two August Moon festivals, one put on by the Chinese Business Association and the other by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

This will be the sixth year hosting the event for the CBA, an association which started in the late 1960's in order to "bring the whole community together," stated Rosemary Yee, the treasurer and performance director of the CBA's event. The festivities will start at 10 a.m. on August 3 and last throughout the day. Many Chinatown streets will be closed for the day, in order to make way for the numerous vendors and two stages, one under the gateway, the other at the corner of Harrison and Beach streets. Yee declared that the stages will be set up in the streets so that "the local people living in the community will have a chance to perform." The stages will also serve as a podium for numerous speakers, including Mayor Thomas Menino (at 2 p.m.), and Councilor Michael Flaherty, as well as lion dancing, and other cultural performances. The fete will conclude with a dinner party at 7 p.m.

On August 17, the CCBA's 34th annual honoring of the harvest will take place throughout Chinatown, lasting all day. The event will include concerts showcasing Chinese opera groups, Thai dance groups. Also there will be a Lion dance show that is scheduled to take place at noon, commencing the festivities.



Recent August Moon festival/ Sampan file photo

The Chinatown/Leather District Central Artery Advisory Committee

The Boston Redevelopment Authority
and the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
jointly invite you to a

Public Meeting on Parcel 24 (Chinatown/ Leather District)

Monday, August 4, 2003

6:00 – 8:00 PM

St. James Church, 125 Harrison
Avenue

The Chinatown/ Leather District Central Artery Advisory Committee will be advising the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and the City of Boston on the development guidelines for the Request for Proposals for the development of Parcel 24, located east of Hudson Street and south of Kneeland Street in the Chintown/ Leather District neighborhoods. This meeting is to begin the discussion of possible uses on the site.

Cantonese translation will be provided.

For more information, contact Stephanie Fan, Chinatown Co-chair, at 617.357.7079 or sfanpeach@aol.com or David Seeley, Leather District Co-chair, at seeley@daveseeley.com (or Larry Rosenblum, Mayor's Central Artery Completion Task Force Leather District representative, at rosenblum@urbanimage.com)

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200 TREMONT ST., BOSTON, MASS. 02116
(617) 426-9492; FAX: (617) 482-2316

English Section:

Editor and Main Reporter:

Adam Smith

ENGLISHEDITOR@AACA-BOSTON.ORG

Layout and Page Designer:

Adam Smith

Volunteers:

Writers: Fred Chin, Tina Pak, Liang Qu,
Evangeline Bermas, Sam Gaynor

Proofreaders: Sam Gaynor, Ann Chang,
Emma Anderson

Chinese Section:

Editor, Translator, Reporter,

Page Designer:

Anita Chang

ANITA@AACA-BOSTON.ORG

Volunteer: Sean Wong

Marketing and Advertising:

Marketing Manager: Jada Wang

SAMPANADS@AACA-BOSTON.ORG

Also: Catherine Chang and Renee Lee
Ad Chinese Typesetting and Translation:
May Keen Yim

Printer:

Graphic Developments, Inc.

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Moon Cakes Are What Make the August Moon Holiday

FROM PAGE 1

Lung Bakery (77 Harrison Avenue) to pick up their mooncakes. Or, they go to the Asian markets and choose from the elaborately decorated tin boxes of mooncakes to take home with them to give as gifts.

Mooncakes have been in existence for hundreds of years, but the tradition of eating them in conjunction with the August Moon Festival didn't start until the overthrow of Mongol rule during the Yuan Dynasty (AD 1280-1368) in 1386 AD. Tradition has it that a Chinese rebel leader of the oppressive Mongol regime slipped messages of revolution into mooncakes that were sent to the Chinese people. These messages announced that the fifteenth night of the eighth moon would be the time of uprising. The rebels were successful in driving out Mongols and, because of that, mooncakes have become integral to the August Moon Festival.

Traditionally, mooncakes are shaped in a rounded form to symbolize the moon as well as family unity and perfection. The more popular filling is the white lotus seed. The addition of a salted egg or even flour is optional, but its significance is quite important as it also symbolizes the moon. The tops of the mooncakes have intricate designs that are usually the insignia of the bakery that made them. The preparation is very labor-intensive because the filling itself needs two to four weeks to prepare, which is why most people tend to purchase them instead.

According to Linda Mac, manager of Hing Shing Pastry, which has been in operation for the past 23 years, the mooncakes are baked slowly in the oven for about half an hour. Contrary to the popular opinion that baked goods taste best hot, right out of the oven, this is not true of the moon cake,



Moon cake for sale at Hing Shing bakery

which needs one to three days to set, said Mac. And, as August Moon approaches, Hing Shing Pastry will have even more varieties of mooncakes for sale, such as: mixed nut, ham, black bean paste, and coconut. Their best selling moon cake during this time is the mixed nut moon cake.

There are four main types of mooncakes: ping, su, kuang, and tai. The ping is crispy with a savory outer crust; the su is sweet and has thin crust; the kuang has a pastry-like crust; and the tai has a sweet potato filling. Mooncakes can vary by regions and countries, as Vietnam also celebrates its own August Moon festival.

In recent years, there have been variations to the traditional moon cake, which go beyond the lotus seed filling. Some have yogurt, fruit, chocolate, or ice cream

fillings. Others have flavored outer layer crusts. In particular, there are the chilled and refrigerated mooncakes that come in a variety of flavors such as chocolate, mango, lychee, durian, and green tea to name just a few.

Mac stated that these new styles of mooncakes are novelty food items that cater to the young and make great gifts, but "they are not mooncakes." They may look like mooncakes, but the traditional outer layer and filling have been replaced.

However many incarnations the moon cake may go through as the years go by, it is a testament to its longevity because even in 2003, people are still eating them and giving them away as gifts.

Source: www.taiwaninfo.org and www.family-culture.com.

History of Moon Festival

By Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, Asian American Village's Contributing Editor

The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival (Zhong Qiu Jie) or Moon Festival falls on the 15th day of the 8th month on the lunar calendar. It is a harvest festival, much like Thanksgiving, to celebrate a successful harvest. Chinese people go home to be with family and friends and to feast -- especially on mooncakes. They also drink tea, compose poetry, and to look up at the moon, which is said to be at its biggest and brightest on this night of the year.

Similar holidays are also celebrated by the Japanese (Chushu no Meigetsu or Harvest Festival), Koreans (Chusok or Thanksgiving), and Vietnamese (Tet-Trung Thu or Children's Festival).

Mooncakes are the centerpiece of this festival, as much for eating as for giving to other people. They are round like the full moon and symbolize family unity. They are baked cakes, two to four inches in diameter, filled with red bean paste, lotus paste, date paste, dried fruits, or other sweet meats. The Cantonese style are the most commonly found in America. Bakeries in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and other parts of Asia, howev-

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FROM SEEDS TO HARVEST

By: Fred Chin

The August Moon Festival originally belonged to the peasants of the Middle Kingdom. It was an important occasion in the history of the Chinese agricultural families. For the farming economy that depended on the cooperative market system, the occasion was the happiest when the annual harvest was abundant.

Over time, the farmers took the celebration into the central markets, which grew into large cultural centers for neighboring villages. These towns then grew into big cities where the celebrations became more festive.

Due to the cultural movements and social changes, the August Moon is celebrated with varying customs. Before, enjoying the different local customs was another fun part of celebrating the Harvest Moon. Most prominent of all over the years are the differences in the festival customs between the old villages and the growing cities.

From the original village, small town, or ancient city, the August Moon Festival came across the ocean with the early Chinese settlers in the United States. The festival is now a yearly event in every American Chinatown. The August Moon Festival - Zhong Qiu Jie - in an American Chinatown today has rightly taken on the atmosphere of an urban-style city festival.

AUGUST MOON IN THE CITY

What are the measures of a city festival?

Life in the cities does not revolve directly around the harvest. There is rice year round for the rice-cookers in the city regardless of the harvest. So there is no real need to celebrate the Harvest Moon. In the city, instead of in September when the moon of the Eighth lunar month is full and brightest, the festival can be held in August. The date is not a truly crucial issue.

Another aspect is the commercialization. It all started with the central markets of long ago. A festival is a time to make money. Peoples go to live in large cities to earn money. Making extra money brings happiness to the people at a year when the harvest turned bad; and more excitement when the harvest overflowed. City merchants find creative ways to commercialize the festival. The people are happy to buy the yearly ritual items to celebrate. Street

vendors fill the sidewalks with interesting trinkets and tasty morsels adding more fun to the festivities. Then there are the moon cakes.

Moon cakes, four in one fancy red box, are shipped months ahead all the way from the factories in China to the American Chinatown bakeries. This is quite an impressive ancient Chinese marketing system.

What about the moon cakes? Are there Chinese families in the city who bake their own moon cakes at home? All families, maybe for hundreds of city years now, just buy the boxes at the bakeries after fussing for days about to whom, when, and how the boxes are to be delivered as token gifts of friendship or kinship. The arrival of one or a stack of moon cakes boxes, either with the visitor or by the deliverer, is an exciting family moment marking the August Moon. After that, how many Chinese families in the city leave the moon cakes untouched in the box until they get rock hard and covered with a fuzzy layer of mold?

There are many more yearly rituals of the city celebrating the August Moon.

August Moon in the Village

The rituals of village style celebration were simple. Where it is practiced today, it is still simple. The occasion is called Shang Yue - praising the moon.

The village rituals are about appreciating the full moon. The harvest for the village is done and collected. In the South, rice is the main harvest. In the North, the major crop is wheat. Two different major crops bring out two different kinds of Chinese food for the festivities. One Chinese village custom is shared: Families, neighbors, and friends gather to relax and enjoy each other's company under the bright moonlight.

The occasion is always on the night of the full moon of the eighth lunar month. The approaching autumn breeze cools the evening air. Among the many outdoor places, the roof tops are a popular place to gather. Late in the night when the moon is high in the sky is the favorite time to celebrate.

Families hang colorful paper lanterns of different designs outside. In the old days, a small candle was placed inside the lantern. These days the lanterns look around electric light bulbs. With the buildings all lit-up, the little Chinese villages look pretty, flickering under the moonlit

night. The children are overjoyed for this opportunity to stay up late and play around the family altar to the moon. Sweet scent of sandalwood incense fills the open air. And grandparents entertain their listening audience with stories of the Moon Goddess.

Villagers who are entertaining guests from the city consider themselves lucky to enjoy the boxes of moon cakes. A platter of the gifts from the city is served on the altar among the fruits and flowers, candles and incense. The children are asked to stand in front of the altar and bow in respect to the moon. After the ceremony, eating, storytelling, and conversations fill the cool hours of the family night.

On a clear cloudless night, seated high above a roof top, the big round moon appears closer to the viewer looking skyward. It is a sweet tranquil evening of sharing calm and beauty.

AUGUST MOON IN THE DAY

From the farming villages of China, the August Moon Festival has now arrived to make its full cultural impact in the cities of America.

Here in Boston, the celebration of August Moon takes advantage of the hot sunny days of a New England summer. It is more an American Chinese cultural festival. Like the time in ancient China, it is a festival of the city. It is definitely not an occasion to celebrate a farm harvest. Most specially, the city festival is celebrated as a cultural harvest for the Chinese community in America.

A city's cultural harvest honors tradition. August Moon is a tradition that brings together the people - families and friends - all into one community. As a city festival, the customs and practices of the August Moon tradition allow the community to cement their social bonds.

Moon cakes are still exchanged as gifts. Without moon cakes, the August Moon Festival is not complete. Children and even adults can buy them to poke the salted yolk out of the cake's center, leaving the yolkless pieces for others!

Once a year, Chinese people across New England can gather on the streets to observe a time honored celebration in Chinatown. A morning celebration into the late afternoon allows the people to visit and shop. Family and friends from afar have another opportunity to meet again. Old and young have an excuse to make new and happy memory. And it is a special commercial opportunity for the businesses and organizations of Chinatown to make extra money.

Around Boston, with the Chinese community spreading out wide to many suburban locations, Chinatown has taken on an important social function as a cultural community locus for successful cultural harvests.

The scattering of the Chinese families to the suburbs makes Chinatown a more attractive community space to return for cultural celebrations. At the same time, the suburban scattering of supermarket chain stores makes Chinatown less attractive as an urban market center to drive in and shop for needed Asian goods.

The changing landscape of urban Chinatowns -- taller commercial buildings, denser populations; traffic congestion and the high cost of housing -- has led to a dispersal of the Chinese community. Fewer of the younger, better educated youth live in the confines of the Chinatown community. This makes the value of August Moon festival more important as a draw for reinforcing Chinese cultural traditions. The festival is a community treasure for the Chinese and for everyone in this great city. The festival is a community treasure for the Chinese, and for everyone in this great city.

AUGUST MOON IN THE EVENING

Wouldn't it be fun to enjoy a second August Moon celebration at night?

It would be like the old days back in the village when the celebration begins after sunset. A cooler evening will bring out more people to the streets.

When the rising moon climbs high up in the sky, it is time to light the colorful lanterns. It will be an evening to enjoy a worldwide city tradition for a festival of lights.

It would mean: Consolidating the two separate, repetitive daytime August Moon Festivals in Chinatown.

Given the fast changing landscape not only of Chinatown but also of the entire American Chinese community, the sowing of new cultural seeds is needed in order that the future of a thriving 21st Century Chinatown will reap successful cultural harvests.

A nighttime August Moon celebration has great potential to make Chinatown a more attractive place. For the businesses, the restaurants will serve more dinner customers. The hotel rooms will be filled with overnight guests. For the families, suburban grandchildren can stay the weekend with their grandparents in town. There are more commercial ways to make a nighttime celebration a financial and cultural success.

Every year, the entire city can expect and enjoy an evening August Moon Parade of Lights. The marching bands and special floats crisscrossing the streets of Chinatown will define a new cultural space for Chinatown. The many Chinese cultural clubs in the schools and colleges in the area can send their student delegation to join the parade and become a part of Boston Chinatown cultural history.

The whole of Boston will also reap the financial and cultural success. The new businesses, such as those in the renaissance of the South Station area, will benefit from increased pedestrian flow to an evening August Moon in Chinatown. The attraction of this cultural moment is a selling point for financial support from state and municipal governments, the community banks, local businesses, chain stores and hotels.

The organizations sponsoring the present two festivals can still continue. One festival will need to transform into a night festival. The whole city, not just Chinatown, can enjoy one daytime and one nighttime festival.

It will be best for the two dates to be close to each other to maximize the festival activities, and to intensify the cultural atmosphere. Both festivals can be on the same date. Or it can be on two days in one weekend. The sponsoring organizations will need to cooperate to workout the details for the ultimate public benefits.

Given the inevitable gentrification of Chinatown, and more seriously the growing spread of the Chinese community, the August Moon Festival every year needs to have attractive social programs to be financially viable and culturally successful. The festival must cater to the new and younger generations in the community. The festival must have everyone's full support each year.

In the Chinese agricultural thinking that formed the foundation of a civilization, the people understand the differences between good and bad seeds, the importance of their cultivation, and the joy of the ultimate rewards.

The time is ripe now to begin building a 21st Century Chinatown by sowing good and healthy cultural seeds.

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OPEN LETTER TO MENINO

Chinatown Crime Getting Worse Says Concerned Citizen

Dear Mayor Thomas M. Menino:

I am writing to express my concerns about Chinatown in our great city of Boston. I have been in Chinatown for the past four years and for the past six months I have seen this section of the city quickly take a turn for the worse.

I see people dealing drugs out in the open. I have seen homeless men and women drinking and fighting on the sidewalks and streets. I can't walk to restaurants or shops without being asked for money or cigarettes.

And all this doesn't just happen at night. It happens around 5 p.m., when I leave work. It happens all day on the weekends -- all while there is virtually no police presence.

It's very sad that you allowed this section of the city crumble with crime. If this type of behavior were to take place in Back Bay or in the North End, it would be cleaned up speedily. I ask that you please bring a police presence, besides the usual traffic detail, into the neighborhood. I see it only getting worse if this doesn't happen.

Sincerely,

Brendan Bizier
(Sent on June 16)

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SAMPAN PROFILE

Quincy Asian Resources Director Kao Li Leads Non-profit Like a Business

Works Towards Expanding and Improving Services in Quincy

By Adam Smith

On a recent rainy weekday afternoon, Kao Li spoke confidently, almost authoritatively, into the phone. He was trying to get the person at the other end of line to sponsor this year's Quincy August Moon festival. Acting more like a business person than a social service provider, he worked on persuading the person to support the event.

"We've got major sponsorships from major corporations," said Li after getting off the phone. "Fleet and State Street Banks are major sponsors, [so are] Federal Bank, and several other local community businesses."

Li heads Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., or QARI, which this year will lead the city's August Moon Festival. The executive director's business-like approach to leading the new non-profit partly comes from his prior experience in the business world and partly comes from necessity.

"This is about the worst time to start a non-profit," said Li during an interview QARI's small downtown office. "So, I do use business processes thinking in non-profit work."

Making these days especially difficult for non-profits is the reduction of government funding, while foundation and grant money is drying up.

"We have to be creative in leveraging resources," he said. That means working



Kao Li of QARI/ photo by Sampan photographer Sam Gaynor

with other organizations for grant proposals to bring in funding, using the August Moon festival to generate money, and working with volunteers and interns. In previous years, said Li, the August Moon festival's planners just wanted to break even, but this year Li is hoping to double the number for tables from 25 to 50, and to increase the number of attendees from 450 to up to 2,000.

A tall order, no doubt.

But tall orders are what the executive director has been getting in the past year and half on the job.

The only full-time employee, he wears many hats -- from planning to providing services to fundraising to consulting with members and delegating responsibilities to

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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Quincy Bakery Prepares For Festival



By Sam Gaynor

The August Moon festival, as with any Chinese festival of its magnitude, showcases the palatable delicacies of the Chinese culture. Quincy's upcoming August Moon celebration, taking place Sunday, August 24, will likely feature the typical Chinese treats, such tea and glazed fruits.

And no doubt the August Moon festival will include the sweet, yet salty mooncakes that are unique to the holiday. The Kam Man supermarket's bakery in Quincy is one of a number of Chinese bakeries cooking up mooncakes for the August Moon festival.

The moon-cake making at the bakery isn't all work, though. "We all get together and eat moon-

cakes, as well as decorate the whole store," said Madeline Lee, manager of the Kaman bakery. Look out for all kinds of moon cakes this holiday.

Moon-cake making bakeries in Quincy include:
Contempo Bakery, 412 Hancock St..
Crown Royal, 299 Newport Ave.
Kam Man Center, 221 Quincy Ave.

Quincy City Services:

WEBSITE: WWW.CI.QUINCY.MA.US

QUINCY CITY ASIAN LIAISON: JOHN CHEN (617) 376-1201

CITY CLERK: (617) 376-1130

FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY) (617) 376-1040

HEALTH SERVICES: (617) 376-1270

POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY): (617) 376-5700

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Chinese Photo Exhibit Coming to Quincy

Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. (QARI) in collaboration with the Chinese Historical Society of New England will be hosting a photography exhibit featuring the lives of the Chinese in Massachusetts dating back to the 1860's. The exhibit will run from August 2 - 17 at the Kam Man Supermarket, Presidents Plaza, 227 Quincy Ave, Quincy, MA.

The exhibit uses photographs and narrative text in both English and Chinese to depict the lives and stories of the Chinese in New England.

The display is free and open to the public.

Kao Li Profile

FROM LAST PAGE

volunteers and interns.

Born in Taiwan, Lee moved to Libya with his family at age seven, and came to the U.S. at age 14. He lived with an American host family in Seattle, Washington, and went to college in Oregon. He then attended graduate school in Rhode Island, where he studied fish biology. After getting his green card in 1982, he dropped out of grad school and got into pharmaceutical sales. For nearly the next two decades he worked for Pfizer pharmaceuticals.

He left the company in 2000 to pursue the dot.com wave, until that dream crashed shortly after.

Shifting careers paths, he found out about QARI, and entered the non-profit world, becoming executive director of the newly born Quincy Asian Resources Inc. No benefits or perks, and no company frequent flyer miles were made up for, said Li, by working in a job that helped a community instead of a large corporation.

"It's a choice that I made and I am very happy about that choice, as it was much more about giving back."

QARI's role in the city is to work with other local organizations, such as Eastern Nazarene College, Manet Community Health Center and the Quincy Community Action Program, to "lower the bar-

rier in gaining access to services." The organization is working to publish a Chinese and English service directory and a series of fact sheets in Chinese and Vietnamese covering topics such as insurance, education, healthcare, housing and real estate. QARI is also developing translation capabilities so that it can help other organizations better serve Asian clients.

"Our mission is to foster and promote the development of the social and economic and cultural life of Asian Americans, to benefit the entire community. It's not a pure Asian focus, but it's Asians helping Asians integrate."

Li's long-term plans for QARI are to eventually provide English as a Second Language classes, create a program in which high school students would work with Asian seniors to create a living history project, publish a voter information fact sheet for Asians, and to produce a cable access program for Asians. The list goes on.

But Li knows what really matters is the level of service QARI provides.

"Ultimately the question that will have to be asked [by the client] at the end of the day or year, is what have you done for me?"

Sam Gaynor contributed to this report

Quincy's Jimmy Liang Runs Again for Council

FROM PAGE 1

moved to Quincy, where Liang graduated from the Park Elementary school, Central Middle School, and eventually North Quincy High School before moving on to brief studies at Quincy College and UMass-Boston.

Work has always been an important virtue to Liang, one to which he attributes much of his success.

"I had my first paper route when I was eight, my first restaurant job when I was twelve, I started making sushi when I was fourteen, and I earned my first head chef job when I was eighteen," says Liang, who today is the owner of the Fuji restaurant and Fuji Design and Construction, both located on Hancock Street in Quincy. Soon however, Liang began to realize that the skills he had acquired in the business world would help him to become a strong contributor to the city of Quincy, a city, that although home to roughly 10,000 Asian-Americans, lacks an Asian-American representative in the city council.

In 2001 Liang ran for Councillor-at-Large, becoming the first Asian candidate to be on a final election ballot in the city of Quincy. He received over 7,100 votes, and managed to increase the number of Asian-American voters

registered in Quincy by 225 percent. While running in the last election, Liang stated that he felt that although Quincy is a big city, "it seems to work like that of a small town," where "incumbentitis" (incumbent politicians taking their positions for granted, a sickness that Liang feels will never fully disappear) was prevalent. Further, he hoped to provide more educational and recreational opportunities for children, as well as aiding the often forgotten seniors in Quincy.

Even though Liang hopes that the outcome of the upcoming November 5, 2003 election will be different, he sees many similarities between the two. He still faces many challenges, he says, being an Asian-American running for a city council that never before has had an elected Asian-American member.

"Many people want to paint me as a community leader and question what is it that I have done for the community. I am not a community leader, nor am I a community activist," said Liang. "What I am is a business owner, and I can bring my entrepreneurial skills with me to City Hall. I can watch for careful spending, as well as being a voice for the people, working for a more cohesive community."

Of course, many also question the young businessman's ability to manage two growing businesses as well as a political office, if he is to be elected.

"I have two very trust worthy business partners as well as great help in the restaurant from my family. I trust that they will do a wonderful job for me, and they give me the full confidence to pursue this political aspiration that I have," stated Liang, who promises to maintain the same commitment towards being city councillor as he does toward the upkeep of his business and his campaign schedule: "Two years ago when I first ran, I showed up at a candidates' night in my apron. That's how busy I was. This year, I've been going door-to-door in various neighborhoods every chance I get. Thus, as far as commitment to my office, if I am to be elected, it is there. It already is, and it will be there in the future."

In fact, Liang has already committed a great deal of his time to the election process. In a selfless decision that Liang made to help other candidates and the non-English speaking Asian-American members of the community interact on a greater level, he has volunteered to serve as a translator for all candi-

dates running in the upcoming November 5 election in Quincy.

"If the average Asian resident can be informed on all the issues and know what the candidates are talking about, it actually gives them a reason to vote for somebody, aside from voting for me," affirmed Liang, who is running on a platform that consists of maintaining the basic services of the city during this budget crisis by ridding the city of programs that are not necessary to maintaining quality of life in Quincy.

At this time, Liang wants to take his political career one step at a time. He stated that his number one priority right now is to ensure that the Quincy community grows cohesively. For, he claims that "if I find myself changing in any shape or form, I'm going to slow down or leave the political scene. I want to get into office with my own integrity [in tact], not betraying those who voted me into office."

Liang may be modest by not thinking of himself as a role model or a community activist, but he certainly is making a difference for all Asian-Americans in Quincy hoping for their voices to finally be heard.

Chinatown Meetings Reveal Residents and Activists Frustrations Over BRA Planning

FROM PAGE 1

seeking a Planned Development Area designation, which, if approved later this summer, would allow for a 30-story building on the corner of La Grange and Washington Streets. But many Chinatown residents and activists who attended the meetings used the hours-long gatherings to blast the Boston Redevelopment Authority for allegedly not listening to the voices of Chinatown residents and for allegedly not conducting a fair process when it comes to development in the neighborhood. Placards in hand and voices raised, about a dozen Chinatown activists and residents even protested against the project at the July 30 meeting.

"Why is there no zoning in our neighborhood?" asked Chinatown resident and activist Michelle Yee at the meeting last week. Yee accused the city agency of "twisting" facts and blowing off neighborhood concerns.

"The public process," said Chinese

Progressive Association's director Lydia Lowe, "is a joke and it has been a joke from day one."

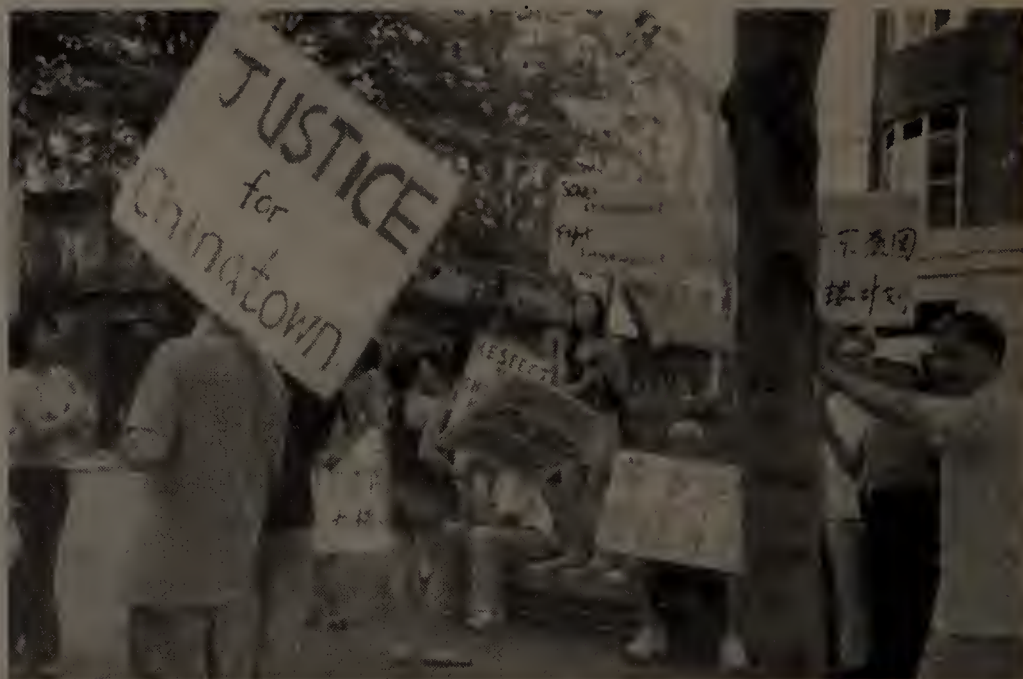
Claire Croghan, a member of the Chinatown Resident Association, said that the BRA, Mayor and developers of building projects "are all in bed together."

One woman said she has been fighting the BRA for about thirty years and still doesn't think that the city agency listens to the concerns of communities.

Many activists and residents at the first meeting still appeared frustrated over the BRA's handling of the soon-to-be-built, 30-story Liberty Place building, which was approved last summer and will sit across the street from the Kensington building.

"Why is it that we're only supplying housing for the rich people?" asked Lowe, referring to the luxury apartment towers.

CONTINUED PAGE 20



July 30 protest against Kensington/ Photo by Tina Pak

Chinese Immigrant Students, Others Awarded Scholarships

By Tina Pak

Eagerly waiting for their names to be called, six Chinese immigrants sat on the edge of their seats recently, preparing to receive \$1,000 scholarships for completing Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language courses.

Ever since their recent move to America, many of the newcomers have dreamed of making a better living for themselves and their families. The scholarships, which were provided by the Boston Adult Literacy Fund, aim to make those dreams a reality. The students, some of whom are balancing two jobs, had been studying English at the Asian American Civic Association, Chinese Progressive Association, and the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. They were joined by a number of other Bostonians also receiving the award.

Each year, the Boston Adult Literacy Fund (BALF) awards the scholarships to selected individuals on the basis of their compelling need and demonstrated student progress. Other criteria for being chosen are community service and perseverance in the face of hardship.

Present at the July 17 annual BALF award ceremony was Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, a long-time board member of BALF. Also a later-than-usual college student—he finished college in his 40's, the mayor encouraged the scholarship recipients to, "Continue making the right choices."

Ernest Best, a former BALF award recipient, similarly represented the possi-

bilities of further education. Best recalled the difficulty he experienced when he was juggling work and classes, but he also remembered the pay off after he finished his education. As a high school drop out, Best acknowledged the hardships faced by the award recipients. His determination, hard work, and support from BALF, enabled him to attend the University of Massachusetts and a program at MIT. He is currently the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alliance for Adult Literacy and an avid supporter of educational pro-

grams.

A total of ninety-nine percent of BALF scholars are working toward a degree in school and holding jobs at the same time, according to BALF. About 5,500 low-income adults in the Greater Boston, however, are still on waiting lists to receive math or literacy education.

"Literacy is one of our most important investments," said Mary Rafferty, spokesperson for Verizon, a company sponsor of BALF.



Immigrant students with Asian American Civic Association Teachers (two women in front middle and blonde woman and man at far right) at the award ceremony

Profiles of Scholarship Awardees

This year's group of scholars includes 23 recipients, six of whom have connections to AACA and other Chinatown organizations.

Name: Yan Chang Liu
Came to America: July 18, 1997
Occupation: restaurant cashier
Education: Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)

Asian American Civic Association (AACA)
Will Attend: Bunker Hill Community College
Goal: To become a nurse

Like many other immigrants, Yan Chang has experienced the difficulty of not only adjusting to the culture, but most importantly learning to communicate as well. She has single-handedly raised a one-year-old son, balanced a tedious job at a restaurant, and has worked hard at her ESL program and citizenship classes. However difficult her time in America has been, Yan Chang remains determined to achieve her life-long goal of being a nurse and to improve her and her son's standards of liv-

ing. With this decision she says, "I like helping people. At work, I am willing to open the door for the customers, especially for the customers with wheelchair. I am willing to help my co-worker to solve their problems. [...] Now I am not afraid of difficulty. I will work hard to achieve my goal." Yan Chang will be attending Bunker Hill Community College starting this fall.

Name: Xiubing Joeane Gan
Came to America: 1 year ago
Occupation: Restaurant Hostess
Education: Asian American Civic Association
Will Attend: Bunker Hill Community College
Goal: Counselor for Immigrants

Hungry for knowledge and longing to be able to communicate with fellow neighbors in perfect English, Xiubing has dedicated much of her time to ABE classes. With hopes of being able to apply for a better job than a hostess, Xiubing will study human services at Bunker Hill Community College and eventually become a bilingual coun-

selor for immigrants. She recounts her hardship and says, "Looking for a job was also difficult for me because I couldn't speak English well. I got my first job as a busgirl in a restaurant. [...] However, learning how to overcome the challenges like this enriched my experience. After three months, my English got better and my boss hired me as a hostess."

Name: Jiebo Zhu
Came to America: 4 years ago
Occupation: Waiter
Education: Asian American Civic Association
Will Attend: Bunker Hill Community College
Goal: To be a surgical Technologist

Leaving a luxurious life style in China behind, Jiebo came to the US four years ago. As he faced continuous obstacles in America, he soon realized his calling when he saw a fellow Asian struggling. He says, "I like to help the people who don't understand English. One day, I waited in line in a

CONTINUED PAGE 10

Chinatown Murder Marks 21st Homicide in City

Some Fear Increase in Crime

By Adam Smith

An elderly Chinatown man became the city's 21st homicide victim since the beginning of the year, and the news of the murder is a distressing reminder of crime in Chinatown.

Sheng Hao Tang, 70, was found at 7:51 a.m. on July 27, bleeding and with head injuries on Tamworth Street, a short alleyway linking Essex and La Grange streets.

The announcement of the murder comes after community unrest over an apparent increase in crime and homelessness in the area.

"[Crime in Chinatown has] been the subject of the last two safety meetings," said Chinatown Safety Committee leader Bill Moy. According to Moy, over the last two months, the neighborhood has seen robberies increase from six to 12.

"It's becoming an acute problem in Chinatown. Most [robberies] are done by someone who is armed with a knife."

Moy, however, said that he doesn't think the present crime jump in the nearly-dead Combat Zone area is comparable to years ago when the area was overrun with crime and porno theaters. "It's not comparable to what it used to be, but it is quite noticeable."

Earlier this summer, police, homeless advocates and the Chinatown Neighborhood Council met to discuss the increasing crime and homelessness in the area. Recently, police have said that there would be more officers present in Chinatown.

"It's really too bad," said Ruth Moy, who runs the elderly home, the Hong Lok House, of the incident.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Asians in Rock Tour, a concert with Jenny Choi, The Third Shift and Kevin So, will play at the Zeitgeist Gallery, Cambridge. (617) 876-6060.

National Night Out Chinatown is Aug. 5, at Tai Tung Village

Chinatown Resident Association will hold its annual meeting on Aug. 2 at the Quincy School Cafeteria, 1-4 p.m.

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center will host an August Moon Harbor Cruise Aug. 8., 6-9 p.m. (617) 357-0052

Asian American Civic Association is recruiting for Sept. 2 evening reading and math classes that prepare for possible careers in biotechnology or health care. Contact Richard Goldberg by e-mail richard@aaca-boston.org

SAMPAN PROFILE

Director Kang Uses Film to Understand Adolescence

By Liang Qu

Think of your adolescence. Imagine the sleaziest, dirtiest place one could possibly go. Put the two together and you would have the premise for writer-director, Michael Kang's newest project, "The Motel."

The story is set in a shady family-run motel, where the young hero, Ernest Chen, must learn to come to terms of his own manhood. Caught in the mist of his work in the family business, taking care of his younger sister, and ridiculed by the girl he secretly admires, Ernest is saved by a self-destructing customer of the motel. Together the two forge a friendship and attempt to untangle the confusions in life.

When asked about what inspired such a story, Kang revealed that it was because "as an Asian-American male, one of the things I never really saw was any kind of sexuality. When [one] sees things like 'Breakfast Club' or 'Sixteen Candles' or whatever, it's always farcical or ridiculous. And so for me, I never felt like I had a role model to show me what it is to be a man, as an Asian-American male in this country. So I thought about what kind of story would talk about those issues."

Those issues, being sexuality and coming to realize the emotions of puberty, are the problems of growing up that Kang wants to take face-on. And whereas he never had anyone to show him the ropes of coming of age, he wants to create a situation where the main character does have guidance, however un-traditional the person may be, through this tumultuous time.

"[I thought of] what would I impart on a kid, and then I created Sam [the customer] who sort of takes [Ernest] under his wing and teaches him," says Kang. "And what I realized was that I have nothing to teach [Ernest] because I, myself, had no one to teach me." It is this stumbling through the conundrum of life that bonds the character of Ernest and Sam despite their age differences, each taking away something from the other.

The situation also bonds audience with the storyteller. There are many out there who are mislead or unguided during those chaotic years of puberty, who can relate to Ernest's frustration, thus forging a connection between those on the screen and those in the audience. And perhaps it is this sympathy that makes the story seem more appealing despite its unglamorous premise.

"The Motel" also figures in the unspectacular aspects of juggling single parenthood and business managing as factors of Ernest's frustration. Because his mother is busy taking care of the motel, she rarely finds time to pay special attention to her children, never mind realizing that her son is on the brink of hormonal explosion. "They have a pragmatic relationship," says Kang of Ernest and his mother. She has much to take care of, and thus treats her son as a partial employee in her business, as well as an on-hand babysitter for Ernest's little sister.

The kind of neglect imparted on him by his mother factors with the already growing aggravations of teenage years and almost drives Ernest to seek solace in the mysterious patron of the motel, Sam. Although Sam is not a typical role model, he unknowingly partakes in easing Ernest through the passing into adulthood.

For writer-director-producer, Kang hopes that people will be impacted by the

characters enough to think about the story, and possibly in so doing, care about the difficulties of not just growing up, but growing up Asian-American in

America. "You can get a political message across if the audience doesn't care," says Kang. In creating "The Motel", and making the audience care genuinely about the

characters, Kang hopes to assuage the some difficulties of adolescence, or at least generate awareness of its complexity.

Summer Sizzles With Chinese Film Series

By Samuel Gaynor

This month, there will be a large showing of Chinese films in Greater Boston. The Brattle Theatre at 40 Brattle Street in Cambridge is hosting a Chinese film festival from now to August 21; the Museum of Fine Arts at 465 Huntington Avenue in Boston will show films from August 2 to August 31, and a little outside Boston, the Peabody Essex Museum at East India Square in Salem, is screening a "Yin Yu Tang" film series now to August 16.

The schedule for the Brattle Theatre festival, featuring the films of Zhang Yimou and Gong Li, will go as follows: (all times are p.m.)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7:

Raise the Red Lantern (7:15)
Known worldwide for amazing camera work, "Raise the Red Lantern" is the story of Songlian, who after her father's untimely death, is forced to become the fourth wife of the very wealthy Master Chen. However, the wives soon prove they are unable to peacefully coexist, as each plot against one another in hopes of gaining Master Chen's attention.
Ju Dou (5:00, 9:45)
"Ju Dou" portrays the struggles of a malicious mill owner named Jinshan who, although sexually impotent, is intent on having a son. He is unable to admit that he is the one who is impotent, and thus drove his two previous wives to their deaths. Jinshan's wife, Ju Dou soon becomes pregnant, bearing the son that Jinshan has dreamed of his whole life. However, there is one thing that Jinshan does not know: Jinshan's nephew is the father of the baby.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14:

To Live (7:15)
Chronic gambler Fugui has lost all his belongings and meaning in life. However, he begins a series of puppet shows on city streets in order to earn enough money to survive.
The Story of Qiu Ju (5:00, 9:45)
Qiu Ju symbolizes the struggle of many as a result of the overly-controlling late twentieth century Chinese government, as she vies to seek justice for her husband, who was kicked in the groin after an argument with a village chief.

THURSDAY AUGUST 21:

In the Mood for Love (3:00, 7:30)
This story of evolving love comes as a result of a common situation shared by a man and a woman living in the same apartment building in 1960s Hong Kong. Both realize that their spouse is cheating with the other's spouse, and the two

become great friends, eventually leading to love.

Shanghai Triad (5:15, 9:45)
Shuisheng arrives in 1930s Shanghai to serve the mistress of a powerful crime boss. He soon realizes the terrible control that the boss has over the ones who work for him and the city as a whole.

The Museum of Fine Arts schedule of films, entitled "Heroic Grace" and featuring films pertaining to Chinese Martial arts, are as follows:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2:

Red Knight-Errant (6:30)
In a tremendous transformation, a young woman whom was kidnapped by a band of outlaws in a raid that also killed her grandmother, becomes a warrior, vowing to seek revenge upon those who killed her grandmother.
Swordswoman of Huangjiang (8:30)
Fang Yuqing, a heroine swordswoman, travels the Chinese countryside, helping and protecting villagers who are in need.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3:

The Story of Wong Fei-hung, Part I (1:30)
In this exciting 1949 film by director Wu Pang, Wong Fei-hung is a martial-arts instructor in Guangzhou who becomes a crusader for justice.
The Six-Fingered Lord of the Lute, Part I (3:30)
The story of the son of two martial artists who encounters and battles all types of villains and alike on his travels.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8:

Come Drink with Me (6:00)
A gang's kidnapping efforts are spoiled by warrior Golden Swallow in this martial arts film.
Golden Swallow (8:00)
A sequel to "Come Drink with Me," Golden Swallow comes to fight knight Silver Roc.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9:

The One-Armed Swordsman (2:00)
Fang Gang, a student at a martial arts academy, is bullied often. His right arm is soon cut off by his sifu's daughter, so he comes to master the art of fighting with only his left hand.
Vengeance! (4:10)
After a Beijing Opera performer is murdered, her brother seeks revenge in "Vengeance!".

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15:

Intimate Confessions of a Chinese Courtesan (6:00)
A martial arts school is moved to a brothel and the martial arts master is changed to a brothel madam, a lesbian who abducts



"Blood Brothers" at the MFA

virgins to work at her brothel.
Blood Brothers (7:45)
Bandit brothers become friends with younger general Di Long after their attempted robbery of him. Eventually, many problems arise in regard to the friendship between the three.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16:

Come Drink with Me (2:00)

Golden Swallow (3:45)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22:

Escorts over Tiger Hills (6:30)
This is the story of ex-guerrilla fighter Jing Wuji who returns to his past for one final fighting mission.
From the Highway (8:30)
A group of bandits raid a civil village, only to eventually be sought out for revenge by a stranger, destined to be the story's hero.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23:

The 36th Chamber of Shaolin (1:15)
The story of a Chinese layman running from the Manchu autocrats who eventually ends up at the Shaolin Temple.
Return to the 36th Chamber (3:30)
In a sequel to "The 36th Chamber of Shaolin," Lau Kar-Fai is a con man, out impersonating a Shaolin priest.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27:

The One-Armed Swordsman (6:00)

Vengeance! (8:10)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29:

The 36th Chamber of Shaolin (5:45)
Return to the 36th Chamber (8:00)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30:

Intimate Confessions of a Chinese Courtesan (1:00)
Blood Brothers (3:00)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31:

Escorts over Tiger Hills (2:20)
From the Highway (4:15)

The Peabody Essex's "Yin Yu Tang" film series is as follows:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8:

Guonian Lujia (7:30)
This 1999 film explores the disorientation caused by speeding social changes by focusing on Tao Xiaolan, a woman who returns home after being in prison for 17 years for accidentally killing her stepsister.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9:

Ermo (7:00 and 9:00)
Directed by Zhou Xiaowen, Ermo is the story of an independent woman struggling to support her handicapped husband and incompetent son. Through her profession as the village noodle-maker, Ermo symbolizes the issues surrounding the roles of women in contemporary China.
Ju Dou (7:00 and 9:00)
Wanting an heir to his wealth, a vindictive mill owner purchases a young woman to produce his son. The film displays the struggles of all, especially women, in the restrictive society of 1920s China.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15:

Huoze (To Live) (7:30)
A winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, this film portrays the terrible living conditions in neglected areas of China. In fact, the film has been banned in China due to the atrocious condition of some of the dwellings.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16:

Shenghuo Xiu (Life Show) (7:00 and 9:00)
Award-winning director Huo Jianqi chronicles the life of a divorced restaurant manager, as she encounters many struggles, including a turbulent love-affair with one of her customers.
Xi Zao (Shower) (7:00 and 9:00)
In this film, directed by Zhang Yang, a successful Shenzhen business man is forced to choose between continuing his prosperous life as a business man, or moving back to his home district of Beijing to care for his mentally challenged younger brother and father.

Tickets for Brattle Theatre shows are \$8.50; tickets for MFA shows are \$15 for two films back to back; The Peabody Essex Museum films are \$10-\$14.. All times are p.m. unless otherwise noted.



POLICE REPORT



Provided by Office Dave Saddler
Compiled by Tina Pak

July 10

Warrant for Arrest

At 12:15 a.m., a suspect was arrested on Beach Street on a default warrant.

Afternoon Larceny

A reported larceny occurred at 800 Washington Street at 2:00 p.m.

Armed Robbery

Authorities were alerted to Beach Street at 8:55 p.m. when an armed suspect robbed a man. The suspect was arrested.

July 11

Stolen Car is Recovered

A stolen vehicle was recovered at 9:15 a.m. on 3430 Washington Street. Robbery at the Double Dragon Seafood

At 12:15 p.m., police responded to a call of an unknown suspect stealing

cash from the Double Dragon Seafood Restaurant on 10 Tyler Street. Authorities report that the suspect forced the cashier to open the register, took money and fled the scene. There was no arrest.

Drug Bust

Police noticed a group of known drug abusers at a phone booth. The authorities approached the suspects to do a routine check. As soon as the suspects saw the police officers, one suspect placed an object in his pocket. Upon further investigation, drugs were found in his possession. He was placed under arrest and then transported to the station for booking. The other two suspects were questioned and then released.

Drug Addict Transported to Hospital

While police officers were patrolling Chinatown, they noticed a woman yelling and crying. When

they approached the woman, officers discovered that the victim had been using drugs all night and that she was confused. She was transported to the hospital to be evaluated.

Suspect Makes Off with Headlights

Authorities were called to a victim who reported that an unknown suspect had removed the headlights of his motor vehicle on Marginal Road.

Crack down on Narcotics

In a buy-bust drug operation, the District A-1 Drug unit placed a drug dealer under arrest after an undercover police officer bought drugs from him.

July 12

Authorities Arrest Both Supposed "Victim" and Suspect

A supposed victim stopped a police officer on Beach Street, claiming that a man in a black car had assaulted him. When the responding officer conducted an investigation

and found the the suspect in his car on Beach Street, he discovered that the alleged victim had entered the man's car, pulled out a knife, and started to stab the dashboard. Authorities were informed that the alleged victim had not only stabbed the dashboard, but had also smashed the windows with a guitar. Both parties were arrested and taken down to the station for processing.

Breaking and Entering

A motor vehicle was reportedly broken into on Kneeland Street at 9:30 p.m.

Victory for the Drug Control Unit

During a buy-bust operation, an undercover officer of the drug control unit purchased drugs from a suspect, who was then placed under arrest and transported to the station for processing.

Undercover Cop Busts Drug Dealer

An officer in plain clothes arrested

a male when he was involved in a drug sale. When the officer attempted to stop the transaction, the man fled. After a brief chase and struggle, the man was finally apprehended.

July 13

Woman Arrested for Prostitution

A prostitute was arrested on Oak Street at 1:30 a.m. when she was observed walking the streets for the purpose of sex for a fee. The woman was reportedly seen engaged in this behavior on numerous occasions.

Afternoon Larceny

A victim reported a larceny at 5:30 p.m. on 417 Washington Street. There was no arrest.

July 16

Hit and Run

At 1 p.m. on Harrison Avenue, a bicyclist was struck by a motorist.

Reports from July 17 on will be in the next issue of Sampan. Sorry for the inconvenience.

PROFILES FROM PAGE 8

post office. In front of the counter, a middle-aged Asian woman tried to communicate with the clerk through her body language, but the clerk was confused. The woman was anxious when she looked back to the waiting line for help. I walked forward and helped her as a translator. When she said thank you, it was the most beautiful music to my ears. I found out that I could help people with my English."

Name: Zhi Rui Wu

Came to America: five years ago

Occupation: cook

Education: Asian American Civic Association

Will Attend: Bunker Hill Community College

Goal: Electronics Technology

At the young age of 20, Zhi Rui Wu

immigrated to US with the hopes of living out the American Dream. But like many immigrants, he realized that it was not as easy as the stereotypes had made it out to be. Being chastised for not being able to speak English or culturally assimilate, Zhi Rui returned to China only to be rejected by his own people for being privileged enough to live in America, the land of dreams. Seeing the hardships his parents were going through to educate him and his brother, he was determined to give America another try. Starting at ESL level two, Zhi Rui then steadily overcame levels two, three, and then four in AACA's ABE program, Zhi Rui has finally grasped his desire to reach his goals. He remembers, "As my teacher said, "Give you a fish, you will have the food for one day. Teach you fishing, you will have the food for your whole life."

Name: Shiwei Jia

Came to America: 1 year and 4 months ago

Occupation: former Manager for state owned company in China

Education: Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC), Asian American Civic Association

Will Attend: Bunker Hill Community College

Goal: To improve English skills

Aspiring to be an English tutor for immigrants, Shiwei Jia continues to study in a tutor training program at BCNC. He will enroll at Bunker Hill Community College and says, "in the future I would like to dedicate myself to the Chinese community and devote myself to teaching new immigrants learn English."

Name: Liang Feng Chen

Came to America: 1 year and 3 months ago

Occupation: waiter

Education: Asian American Civic Association

Will Attend: Bunker Hill Community College

Goal: Accountant

Finding it extremely difficult to culturally assimilate and learn English, Liang Feng nearly gave up. He would avoid going out and meeting people. When a friend introduced him to the AACCA, he took every opportunity to improve his English. Little by little Liang Feng enhanced his vocabulary and confidence in speaking English. He soon realized his true potential. He says, "Although sometimes I would think that I am biting off more than I can chew, I never thought of giving all the things up because I discovered that a person without knowledge is like a flower without a scent. I know nothing can stop me from reaching my goal." -T.Pak

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Sun, History, Beaches, Even Boas... There's No Place Like Malaysia

Text and photos Evangeline Bermas

KUALA LUMPUR

I literally went from a plane to a train to an automobile the night I arrived in Malaysia, and right then I knew that it would be the beginning of one fantastic trip.

I was invited by Tourism Malaysia to attend a press tour of their country in July, so that I could write about the sights and people of the tropical peninsula and its islands.

Landing in the state-of-the-art Kuala Lumpur International Airport, which is about 50 miles west of downtown, I started my eleven-day journey. Getting out of the terminal, first-time visitors like myself will find the site quite astonishing, as the airport is surrounded by a forest with acres and acres of trees.

But you don't need to be a contestant from "Survivor" to get from the airport to the city alive. The roads are well-paved and well-lit, and the only skill you'll need if you're driving is being able to drive on the other side of the road like people do in England.

If you're a passenger on a package tour, like I was, everything is smooth sailing.

First, I headed to downtown Kuala Lumpur, or KL as it is also called. Aside from riding on the other side of the road and seeing signs in Bahasa Malaysia (the country's national language) and Chinese, I didn't notice many differences between this city and any major American city. Even the faces that were smiling at me from the billboards were quite familiar ones - Jennifer Aniston and her *Friends*; crime-fighting *Angels* Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz, and Lucy Liu; and even Arnold Schwarzenegger, reminding passersby that he's back.

Less than an hour later, the buildings and lights of downtown KL began to appear. And how magnificent the

sight was! Skyscrapers beautifully lit up the night sky, and the centerpiece of it all was the Petronas Twin Towers - the tallest buildings in the world.

The high rises would be my destination the next morning, after, of course, I had my traditional Malaysian breakfast *nasi lemak*, which consists of coconut-flavored rice with hard-boiled eggs, cucumber, shallots, and anchovies.

A 1453-foot work of architectural genius, the Petronas Towers attract people from all over the world. Surrounding me in line to see the buildings were high school students from Germany, a vacationing couple from Australia, and a group of Thai monks with their digital cameras. We were all waiting anxiously to be lifted up to the Skybridge, a structure on the 41st floor of the 88-story buildings that connects the two towers together. It's the highest point that any tourist may go. From there you can see most of KL, and I couldn't wait to explore every corner of every neighborhood as I stood there observing the city.

Once I was back on the ground, I discovered that there's more to KL than just its tall and modern buildings. Among other things, it is a city that is heavily influenced by Islam, the religion of the majority of the Malaysians. Mosques can be seen all over town, and the architecture of many of the other buildings is inspired by Islamic art. This beautiful poetic contradiction of skyscrapers vs. mosques, of modern technology vs. centuries-old faith, makes Kuala Lumpur quite a fascinating city.

KOTA KINABALU AND OTHER PARTS OF SABAH

The next morning, I took a two-and-a-half hour flight to Kota Kinabalu, capital city of the state of Sabah in the eastern part of the country. Kota Kinabalu is less modern and does not have much of the hustle n' bustle that KL has.

But Kota Kinabalu offers some things that KL doesn't.



Tsim Shen Tsui temple is in a small village called Kinarut, which is where the North Borneo Railway makes a 15-minute stop on the way to Papar.

Beaches are one example. Located in northern Borneo, Kota Kinabalu boasts spectacular beaches that are clean, peaceful and populated with swaying palm trees. If you plan a trip to this city, keep in mind that Kota Kinabalu can be used as a point of departure for traveling to places

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Diary Entries From a Trip to China

Text and photos by Matthew Gill

I explained, winefully, how we did not do the things we wanted to do: we never did such things.

-Ernest Hemingway A Farewell To Arms

Six months of teaching in Shen Yang landed me some time and the chance to ponder this quotation, and I decided to spend the trip seeing a different side of this country. With dictionary in hand, I boarded an all Chinese ship (language, people, food, and karaoke) for an 8-day journey that would stretch the width of the world's third longest river, the Yangtze. The following are some excerpts from the experience.

Sunday evening, 5 p.m., 2001

Setting off from the dock as the sun fell away, we joined the heavy traffic of fishing boats, cruise liners, and various other ships trafficking the Yangtze's on-ramp, the Huang Pu river. Although not as dense as the human traffic just west of us on Shanghai's famous *Nan Jing Lu*, (possibly the busiest, most peopled street in the world) these boats of all description, as we headed north to meet the "long river," were endless. After viewing the spot where the two rivers met, I returned to my cabin and watched the Chinese football team make history by securing a spot in next year's World Cup, China's first invite in 44 years. This has truly been a big year for China.

Monday

This morning as I stepped out of my cabin, complete with running water, bedside reading lights, and a television, I found the floor virtually empty. I would be living in a secluded luxury of sorts, especially in comparison to many of the laborers on board who did not even have a bed, but slept on a bamboo mat in the hallway. Money and traveling here in China is an interesting thing. If you are going somewhere overnight, you can save money by sacrificing a bed, or even a seat. But to many here, it's not a question of saving, but that they don't have it to spend. A friend of mine attended University in Xian, an ancient city in the heart of the country, and a 36-hour train ride from Shen Yang. Every time he headed off to school or returned (4 round trips a year) he stood the entire length, or slept under someone else's chair. To me, surviving this once would be terrible enough but he did this until graduation. Now with an engineer's salary, when he takes a train, it's always a sleeper. Or better yet, he flies. So assumedly to my native co-passengers, I was a rich foreigner. However, by booking a ticket on this Chinese vessel at 994 RMB (a mere \$120) I had saved over 15,000 more of their Chinese yuan- the cheapest foreign cruise running about \$2000. But each time I entered the section marked "first-class" in Chinese characters, stepping over someone's sleeping body in the process, I did not feel as proud as this title would imply.

Tuesday afternoon:

A great scene today: coming into port in a small city, we hadn't time to get off the



boat and buy anything, for it would be a quick on/off for some passengers and cargo. Some local logic, however, eased this situation. Most notable were two clever dock-side vendors, one selling fruit and sugar cane, the other proudly proclaiming, "frog meat on a stick!" The boat's passengers would shout out what they wanted, and have it quickly ushered to them by a bucket on a long bamboo pole. In twenty minutes, the woman sold all of her fruit, and the man, most of his Chinese delicacies. Returning to my room, I

thought about this scene, and others like it, and the compass, and fireworks, and paper money, and a girl named Liu Hong, and wonderful fried noodles artistically topped with egg.

Thursday

Just before heading for lunch today, which was the same as the previous three, I noticed something considerably larger

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Happy August Moon



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Images of a Trip to China

Photos by Matthew Gill

Left: Children playing in a public school yard in Shen Yang on a Saturday afternoon.

Bottom: Middle school students doing their morning exercises

Top middle: A soldier depicted in the famous monument "Tribute to the Revolutionaries" in Zhong Shan Square

Top Right: This is a "gong yong dian hua," or "public phone. These and cigarette vendors are a common site in the city of Shen Yang, which is the home to about seven million people.



China Diary

FROM LAST PAGE

than the usual branches and trash floating down river. When I spotted the crowd of people along the rail of the boat, also noticing, I looked closer to see a man's body floating by. In Chinese someone assumed "he had not been careful." It was a very strange feeling. There was a dead man floating by on the river, the Yangtze River, and what was one to do in this situation? We all just watched as the body disappeared into the ship's rolling wake, the next ship passing and the next, and soon we were at lunch thinking of other things. My thoughts about this melded into the overwhelming feeling of the rest of the passengers, which was that of mei shi, or "no event." I wondered if something would have been done differently if this scene were to be seen in America.

Saturday

Today is the second to last day of our trip. Cabin fever has set in to the tune of 101-degrees, and the last chocolates purchased in Shanghai have long since been

eaten. But today we will see the highlight of the Yangtze, the famed Three Gorges Dam. Later, we passed through this breathtaking rivervalley, and despite the skin and somewhat mood-dampening weather, we were awed. Rising up steeply on each side, the gorges, stretching for over 100 miles, are one of China's most beautiful vistas.

With an unbeatable view from the ship's roof, with tea in my cup and fog horns bellowing, I was content. Then I met a young girl whose English was fantastic, and we had a fun discussion about a variety of different things. Her age, nine, kept her from inquiring about Afghanistan, and her culture, from caring about Barry Bonds' 71st, which made our conversation all the sweeter. I told her that my school just hired a teacher from Germany and she was very interested. She wondered how he could teach English, but more importantly, whether he had a beer-belly. When I said no, she made me promise to ask him why? I assured her I would, and told her that some Americans had beer-bellies, too. She said, "No. They don't. They have hamburger-bellies."

As I disembarked the following morning in Chong Qing, heading straight for McDonalds, I thought about my journey

on the Yangtze; of cultural differences and humility, of rice milk with sugar and of karaoke success, and I was happy I had come.

Matthew Gill is a writer from

FROM PAGE 3

er, are constantly inventing new varieties, including mooncakes with chocolate, cheese, ice cream, and even durian fillings.

There are many stories about the origin of mooncakes, but one of the most popular is the role they played in the overthrow of the Mongol rule of China during the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368). Legend has it that statesman Liu Po-Wen baked messages of revolt and battle plans into mooncakes, which were then distributed to villagers and rebel forces, who all rose up at the appointed time on the night of the Moon Festival and successfully overthrew the much hated Mongol rulers (some also say that this is where the Asian American inventors of fortune cookies got the idea).

The moon is considered a symbol of yin, or female energy, and so, traditionally, offerings to the moon goddess are made by women in the family. Round fruits such as pomelos, apples, pomegranates, honey peaches, sour betel nuts, and grapes, as well as 13 mooncakes piled up

Weymouth. He can be reached at matthewgillusa@hotmail.com

like a pagoda (to represent the 13 lunar months), and other feast foods are offered along with secret wishes.

According to the Republic of China Government Information Office (1996):

The ceremony for worshipping the Lady of the Moon is a simple one. A table is set under the moonlight and arranged with red candles, an incense burner, mooncakes and seasonal fruit. Women host the ceremony while the family faces the moon in prayer. When the incense emits its last coil of smoke, the Goddess departs and the table may then be cleared. When the ceremony has thus been completed, everyone may help themselves to the mooncakes and other offered food.

The Moon Festival is also a time of lanterns, which again commemorate another legendary revolt led by Liu Po-Wen against the Mongols during which the residents of the occupied city lit lanterns and beat on drums. This made the rebel army appear much bigger than it

CONTINUES PAGE 16

Paradise Peninsula Is Full of History and Culture

FROM PAGE 12

such as Hong Kong, Tokyo, Manila, and Sydney now that Malaysia Airlines has started offering direct flights to those and other neighboring cities.

Just a twenty-minute boat ride off the coast of Kota Kinabalu is the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park. Named after a former prime minister, this park consists of five different islands - Gaya, Mamutik, Sulug, Manukan, and Sapi. These small-but-mar-

velous islands have plenty to offer. You can enjoy water sports, such as swimming, snorkeling, and diving, or you can follow a mile-long hiking trail after catching a game of volleyball on the beach. Just relaxing on a beach towel or sarong, and basking under the warm Malaysian sun, is another option, of course.

Of the islands, Gaya struck me the most - not because of the sparkling sand or the tranquil, blue water, but because of the group of houses on stilts. Living in Gaya is a small community of the indigenous Bajau people. They make a living by fishing, and their small plywood houses are set up just right above the water, supported by wooden posts.

Though the area is clearly impoverished, poverty is not the first thing that comes to mind when you see the people of Gaya. After seeing the smiling children outside playing, singing, and swimming, you soon forget about their poor living conditions.

Houses on stilts can also be seen in other parts of Sabah, and I got to see more of them when I rode the North Borneo Railway, which took me from Kota Kinabalu to the small town of Papar. Built in the mid-1800s by the British, the steam engine served as a reliable transportation from the coast to the plantations in the inner parts of Borneo.

Today, it is a piece of historical treasure that takes tourists on a one-hour nostalgic journey where they'll get to see old mosques and Buddhist temples, rice paddies, a brick factory, a rainforest, a mountain tunnel, and small towns where it is common to see the locals waving and smiling to the passengers as the train goes by.



House on stilts in Gaya/ photo by Evangeline Bermas

While I was in Papar, it rained very heavily, so you might want to bring an umbrella with you.

Known as the rice bowl of Sabah, Papar is a small agricultural town inhabited mostly by the indigenous people called the Kadazan Dusun. Aside from being farmers, the Kadazan Dusun are also merchants, and from what I hear, the wet market in town is a sight to see. All sorts of fresh fruits and vegetables that are planted and harvested by merchants themselves, plus some handmade crafts, decorate the market.

If you want to learn more about the history and culture of the Kadazan Dusun, I recommend that you visit the Monsopiad Cultural Village. Located just outside of Kota Kinabalu, this wonderful tourist attraction is named after the great Kadazan warrior Monsopiad. The cultural village is where he lived about 300 years ago and is home to some of his descendants today.

While waiting for a tour of the village to begin, you can enjoy a small glass of the sweet rice wine that the Kadazan Dusun make in the village. The tour takes you across a river on a suspension bridge, to the top of a tower, to a small house that serves as a final resting place of the skulls of Monsopiad's enemies, and ultimately to a small theatre where indigenous entertainers perform traditional dances. At the end of the show, the performers ask some of the audience members to try the dances. And in case you're wondering, yes, I was pulled to the stage to try a couple of the dances.

But there's more to Sabah than the beaches and the indigenous cultures. The state places high importance on ecotourism, so if you're into the great outdoors, Sabah is not a place to miss. Home to the world's largest orangutan sanctuary,

CONTINUED PAGE 17



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CONTINUE FROM PAGE 14

actually was, thus scaring off the Mongol occupiers.

Traditionally, children carry colorful, animal-shaped paper lanterns to light the way for adults to pay their respects to the moon.

The Moon Festival is also a romantic day for lovers and poets. The roundness of the moon symbolizes togetherness. The regular cycles of the moon (according to the lunar calendar) symbolize constancy. It is a special day for lovers to tryst and swear their mutual love under the full moon. Separated lovers pray for

reunion. Unmarried women pray for good husbands. Poets look to the full moon for inspiration to compose poetry about family, home, and love.

One of the many legends surrounding the Moon Lady or Moon goddess, Chang Er, says that this is the only day she can be reunited with her husband, the Heavenly Archer Hou Yi, who lives on the sun. Quite the long distance relationship, isn't it...

This story first printed in Asian American Village online.



Staff graphic by A. Smith



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Vacation: Malaysia

FROM PAGE 15

this eastern state prides itself with having a rich and one-of-a-kind wildlife.

I took a river cruise on the Kinabatangan River, the longest in Sabah, in the town of Sukau, only less than 20 miles from the southern Philippines. The river flows in and around a tropical rainforest, so you'll see all sorts of animals as you cruise along. Proboscis monkeys, pig-tailed and long-tailed macaques, Bornean gibbons, crocodiles, and snakes were among the many animals that I saw. After seeing all these animals in their natural habitat, I know that I can never look at a zoo the same way again.

MELAKA

After spending five nights in Sabah, I flew back to Kuala Lumpur for more tours of Peninsular Malaysia. This time, I went to the colonial town of Melaka, about two-and-a-half hours south of KL.

In Melaka, you will see traces of Malaysia's rich history. Salmon-colored buildings with Dutch architecture, the Portuguese Square and the ruins of a Portuguese fortress, an old Protestant chapel, the former burial site of St. Francis Xavier, a replica of the old Melaka Sultanate Palace, the Baba Nyonya Heritage Museum (the ancestral home of a mix Malay and Chinese family) - just to name a few. Not to mention the old mosques and Buddhist and Hindu temples.

Heavily decorated and colorful tricycles with men pedaling them cruise the streets of Melaka and serve as one mode of transportation, mainly for tourists. You don't even have to see them to know they're there. Often times, you'll hear bells jingling that can only come from them.

There are antique shops along the town's narrow streets, where Indians used to sell used things like furniture and clothes during the economic depression. Today, in addition to antiques, shop owners, who now also consist of Chinese and Malays, sell souvenirs to tourists who want to take a piece of the charming town home.

While there, I encountered a man with what must have been a fifty-pound green and yellow live iguana. When I asked him if I could take a picture of the creature, he said to me in a stern voice, "One ringgit (Malaysian currency) for pictures. Three ringgit for petting." And since I highly doubt that I'll really want to look at a picture of a gigantic iguana, much less to touch one, I started to walk away.

"I have a boa, too," he added, as he pointed to another gigantic animal, this time a yellow boa curled up in the seat of a rickshaw.

"No thanks," I said politely and thought to myself, there's no place like Melaka. And there's no place like Malaysia.

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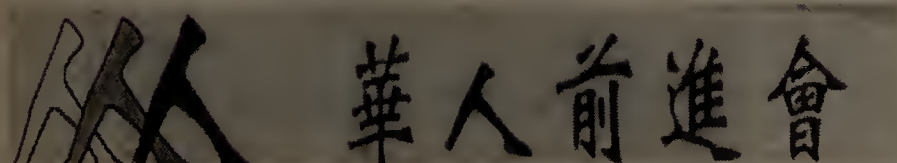
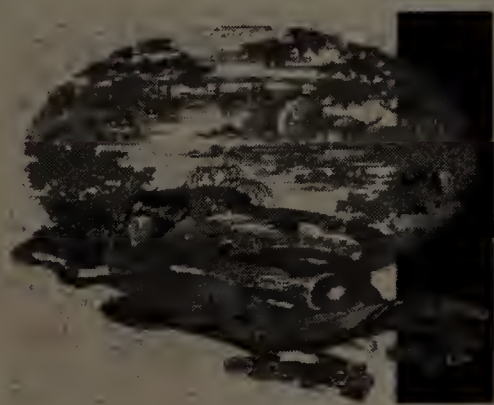
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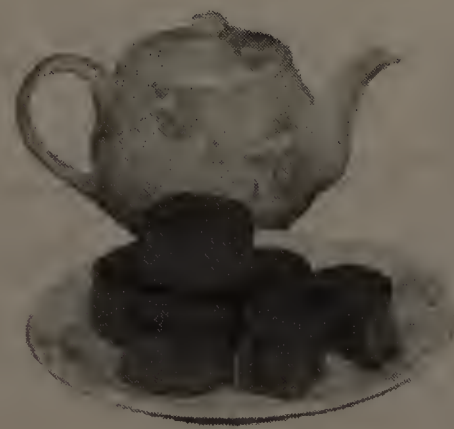


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Kensington Place's PDA Perturbs Activists, Residents

FROM PAGE 8

Often the slams against the BRA were met by cheers and applause from many of the 70 or so people at the meeting last week. This week's meeting, though more sparsely attended, was just as lively.

In addition to Chinatown groups protesting Kensington's building plans, theater preservationists also objected to the building because its construction would require demolishing a 1908 theater.

"Why should we settle for this?" asked Gaiety Theatre-supporter Steve Jerome. This project "removes special buildings that have historical significance. Why does this have to happen?"

...Let's get together, Kensington, the BRA, and the people and satisfy all of our wants with a joined plan," said Jerome.

Other concerned residents and activists directed their comments specifically to Kensington's seeking of a Planned Development Area and questioned the technical details of the proposal.

One requirement to getting a Planned Development Area designation is having a one acre site. To get the one acre, Kensington has drawn a line down the middle of surrounding streets, the BRA-owned Boylston Square alley, and around a building it will not own or develop as part of the Kensington Place project. Kensington currently owns about a half acre on the site.

An intern at the CPA questioned the developer's plan to use parts of streets,

the alley and part of the building to create an acre-sized site. He also questioned the BRA's agreement to force the sale of two parcels of land on the site by using eminent domain to make way for the Kensington building.

An employee of the Asian Community Development Corporation asked if the BRA had ever approved a Planned Development Area that met the acre requirement by including streets, or if Kensington Place would set a precedent.

"A lot of people are under the misimpression that area under the developer's control has to be one acre," said Matt Kiefer, Kensington's attorney.

He claimed that that's not the case.

Kiefer also said that many other Planned Development Areas included the streets and other areas not owned by the developer seeking to use the zoning tool. "Those aspects are not unusual," he claimed.

He also said that using the streets to make the acre wasn't a "legal" issue.

Neither Kiefer nor the BRA, however, said if this would be the first time the streets or other properties have been used to meet the acre requirement.

Not everyone at the meeting was against the project or angry with the BRA. A few Chinatown business leaders stood up for the project.

Albert Li, a Chinatown Councilor, said he supports the project because it would be "creating jobs in this community and will be making the area safer."

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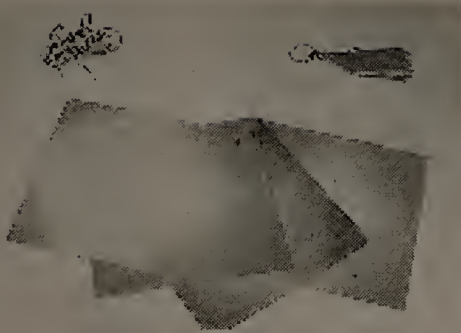
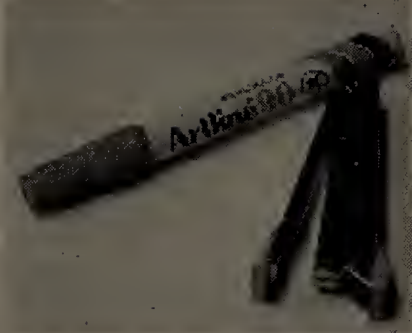
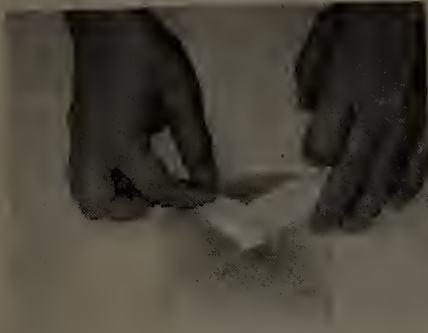
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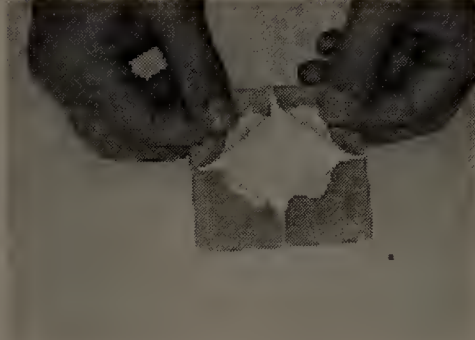
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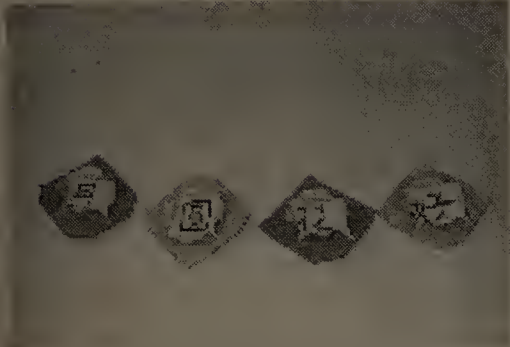
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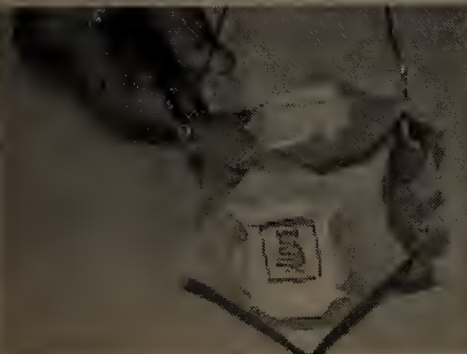
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全國各地的中秋習俗

〔山東省〕

慶雲縣農家八月十五日祭土穀神，稱「青苗社」。諸城、臨沂和即墨等地除了祭月外，也得上墳祭祖。冠縣、萊陽、廣饒及郵城等地的地主也於中秋節宴請佃戶。即墨中秋節吃一種應節食品叫「麥箭」。

〔山西省〕

潞安中秋節宴請女婿。永寧中秋夕恭祀太陰星主。大同縣月餅稱團圓餅，大至二、三尺，中秋夜且有守夜之俗。石樓縣中秋祀城隍。

〔河北省〕

萬全縣稱中秋為「小元旦」，月光紙上繪有太陰星君及關帝夜閱春秋像。河間縣以中秋雨為苦雨，中秋節若下雨，當年的青菜必定味道不佳。

〔陝西省〕

西鄉縣中秋夜男子泛舟登岸，女子亦安排佳宴。不論貧富，必食西瓜。請邊中秋有吹鼓手沿門鼓吹，以討賞錢，例同端午、除夕。洛川縣中秋節家長率學生攜禮物為先生拜節，午飯多於校內聚餐。

〔江蘇省〕

無錫縣中秋夜燒斗香。香斗四周糊有紗絹，繪有月宮中的景色。也有香斗以線香編成，上面插有紙紮的魁星及彩色旗旗。上海人中秋宴以桂花蜜酒佐食。

〔江西省〕

吉安縣在中秋節的傍晚，每個村都稻草燒瓦罐。待瓦罐燒紅後，再放醋進去。這樣子就有香味飄滿全村。新城縣過中秋自十一夜起懸掛通草燈，以鼓樂迎之於市街，直至十七日止。

〔安徽省〕

婺源中秋節，兒童以磚瓦堆一

中空寶塔。塔上掛以帳幔匾額等裝飾品，又置一桌於塔前，陳設各種敬「塔神」之器具。夜間則內外皆點上燈燭，光輝可愛。績溪中秋兒童打中秋炮。中秋炮是以稻草紮成髮辮狀，浸溼後再拿起來向石上打擊，使發出巨響並有遊火龍的風俗。火龍是以稻草紮成的龍，身上插有香柱。遊火龍時有鑼鼓隊同行，遊遍各村後再送至河中。

〔湖北省〕

蕪州中秋，取促織蟲相鬥。

〔四川省〕

嘉定縣中秋節祭土地神、扮演雜劇、聲樂、文物，稱為「看會」。除了吃月餅外，四川人也在中秋節打糍、殺鴨子、吃麻餅、蜜餅等等。有的地方也點桔燈。將桔子挖空，點上蠟燭，懸於門口，以示慶祝。也有兒童在柚子上插滿香，沿街舞動，叫做「舞流星香球」。

〔福建省〕

浦城縣女子穿行南浦橋，吃求長壽。建寧中秋夜俗以掛爐燈為向月宮求子的吉兆。上杭縣中秋，兒女多於拜月時請月姑。方法是以竹筐作為月姑的替身，如果有神降臨，竹筐會自己搖動，如果有神降臨，數來卜吉凶。龍巖人吃月餅時，家長會在中央控出直徑二、三寸的圓餅供長輩食用，意思是秘密事不能讓晚輩知道。這個習俗是來自於月餅中藏有反元殺韃子訊的傳說。金門中秋拜月前要先拜天公。拜天公用做成仙桃型的紅粿叫「天公粿」。拜月的紅粿則做成豬羊的形狀，數目必是九豬十六羊。

〔廣東省〕

廣東各地有中秋節吃芋頭的習俗，據說是紀念元末殺韃子的歷史故事。中秋節殺韃子後，便以其頭祭月，後來改以芋頭代替。至今廣東人剝芋皮時仍稱為「剝鬼皮」。

〔乳源縣志〕還記載，中秋節

吃芋頭，可治疥癩。廣東中秋也有兒童提燈的風俗。燈的材料有紅柚皮雕的柚燈，素馨茉莉花結的花燈，明亮的燈火帶著陣陣的花果清香，使人愛不釋手。東莞青年未婚者也常在月下焚香燃燭，乞求月老為其撮合。霞浦有中秋曳石的風俗。曳石是威繼光發明的，以石塊繫上繩索，沿街拖拉，虛張聲勢，用來恐嚇敵軍。

中秋待月

陸龜蒙（逝於八八一）

轉缺霜輪上轉遲，好風偏似送佳期。帘斜樹隔情無限，燭暗香殘坐不辭。最愛笙調聞北里，漸看星潑失南箕。何人為校清涼力，欲減初圓及午時。

中秋月

晏殊（九九一——一〇五五）

十輪霜影轉庭梧，此夕羈人獨向隅。未必素娥無悵恨，玉蟾清冷桂花孤。

舟次中秋

張煌言（一六二〇——一六六四）

淡蕩秋光客路長，蘭桡桂棹泛天香。月明圓峯人千里，風急輕帆燕一行。此夜仰杯漸瘦，幾年持斧笑吳剛。觀濤豈必錢塘去，碧海銀潢自渺茫。

中秋夜無月

樊增祥（一八四六——一九三一）

江互古清光微九州，只今煙霧鎖瓊樓。莫秋遮斷山河影，照出山河影更愁。

中秋詩選

八月十四夜香港觀燈

康有為（一八五八——一九二七）

空濛海月上金繩，又看秋宵香港燈。曼衍魚龍陳百戲，參差樓閣倚高層。怕聞清曲何堪客，便繞群花也似僧。歡來獨惜非吾土，看劍高歌醉得曾。

水調歌頭

蘇軾（一〇三七——一一〇一）

明月幾時有，把酒問青天，不知天上宮闕，今夕是何年。我欲乘風歸去，又恐瓊樓玉宇，高處不勝寒。起舞弄清影，何似在人間。轉朱閣，低綺戶，照無眠。不應有恨，何事常向別時圓。人有悲歡離合，月有陰晴圓缺，此事古難。但願人長久，千里共嬋娟。

倪莊中秋

元好問（一一九〇——一二五七）

強飯日逾瘦，狹衣秋已寒。兒童漫相憶，行路豈知難。露氣入茅屋，蒼聲喧石灘。山中夜來月，到曉不曾看。

十五夜抵建寧通都橋玩月

徐渭（一五二一——一五九三）

城西日暮泊行船，起向長橋見月圓。漸上遠煙浮草際，忽依高閣墮檐前。坐當林樹看鳥過，望入雲河與水連。久欲乘槎問天上，幾回津路渺無邊。



國安部派員駐機場查核外籍生身份

國內安全部移民及海關執法局代理主任賈西亞說，該局將從八月一日起設立一個二十四小時的指揮中心，每周工作七天，協助確認外國學生的身分及解決其他問題。

該局職員也將派駐百分之七十的外國學生入境美國時經過的機場，包括洛杉磯、紐約、芝加哥、舊金山、邁阿密、底特律、亞特蘭大和華盛頓機場。該局將繼續追蹤那些SEVIS系統中沒有資訊，但被允許入境的學生。

美國政府七月二十九日表示，由於一些學校未能在八月一日截止期限前，把其招收的外國學生資料輸入「外國學生及交換學者資訊追蹤系統」(SEVIS)，這些外國學生可在紐約、洛杉磯等主要機場入境時，向駐在機場的國內安全部職員確認其身分。

賈西亞說，資訊未能按期進入該系統的某些學生可能會在機場被阻止入境，但該局將避免阻止合法學生入境。他說：「我們不會對合法、真正的學生設下障礙，但我們也有責任確保他們的身分是真實的。」

所有招收外國學生的學校，包括有外國交換學生的高中，都必須把這些學生的姓名和其他可確認身分的資訊，輸入在九一一後建立的SEVIS系統。官員說，到七月二十八日為止，已有五千九百三十七所學校遵守這項規定，但仍有六百所沒有提出資訊，或提出時間太晚，趕不上截期，這些學校多半是宗教、貿易性質的學校和高中。

賈西亞說，在機場協助學生的措施是一次性的通融措施，不是為一些不按時作業的學校提供的固定服務。

有些學校擔心他們的學生因為名字沒有在系統內，或資訊不正確而被逮捕或遣返，也擔心該系統繼續發生如刪除資訊或未能把資訊傳送到國務院等的故障。

移民法律

特殊移民申請案加速處理

設在佛蒙特州的BCIS服務中心最近公布了可以加速處理申請案的特殊情況，只有合乎這些情況者，服務中心才可以考慮以特快的流程處理沒有問題的申請案。

佛蒙特BCIS處理中心表示，全美其他三個服務中心，都將採用相同的標準。

第一項可以考慮加速處理的申請案，為美國公民及永久居民申請親屬移民時，可為重病急需醫療的親屬申請移民。第二，不能預知的非常緊急情況，例如來美表演的樂團主樂師忽然因事、因病無法來美，必須有其他的樂師取代，則可以加速辦理取代者的申請。第三，美國公司或個人，會因為外籍人士無法及時來美，而遭受到無法彌補的損失，則可以為該外籍人士快速處理其來美申請。第四，因為移民單位的失誤，而導致申請案延擱，服務中心可以用加速處理來補償申請人的延誤。第五，與美國國家安全及利益有關的外籍人士，必須在最短的時間到美國來，該等外籍人士的來美擔保人，應為美國的國防或有關政府單位。第六，由非牟利機構邀請人士來美，會增加美國文化及藝術之深度者。

如何依照上述六項加速辦理標準，要求BCIS快速處理並沒有可依循的施行細則，決定權在BCIS各服務中心。

如果服務中心接受速辦的要求，則曾派一位移民官員專門處理快速辦的案，把案件從一般的案件流程中抽出，不必排隊；不過，移民界人士指出，申請人也不能寄望太高，因為BCIS同意快速辦的機會大概不多。

美國主管移民事務的單位，除了交一千元快速辦非移民工作簽證之外，其他的項目幾乎都沒有為申請人加速辦

理的規定。申請人只有在緊急情況之下，才可以要求BCIS網開一面，快速辦理申請案。

美新簽證政策缺陷嚴重

國務院計劃從八月一日開始，對訪問美國的外國遊客執行更加嚴格的安檢制度。但是對於減少恐怖分子襲擊的危險性來說，這一計劃看來像是一項過時舉措。

據《今日美國報》(USA Today)報導，自九一一事件以來，加強美國簽證制度的各項工作已落後於其他安檢措施。儘管製造九一一事件的那些恐怖分子都是持美國簽證進入美國國內的，但國務院一直對堵塞安全漏洞的各種對策持抗拒態度。

通過更多面談來加強簽證制度，這原本是一項有希望的安全計劃。但是，由於上訴抗拒態度，也由於有關當局未能清醒地意識到現實，這一安全計劃也因此受到了損害。

在簽證制度上，目前存在著諸多問題，其中包括國務院對各種安全漏洞缺乏有效應對措施，以及該機構沒有足夠資源來執行此項任務。

在批評人士看來，國務院並未讓美國邊界變得更加安全，相反卻只是用一項有缺陷的計劃來取代另一項有問題的計劃。

新的簽證制度要求美國官員對申請美國簽證者大幅增加面談次數。由於美國駐外領事館官員擁有豁免面談的任意決定權，所以，美國官員在很多國家約談簽證申請人的數量往往不到總申請人數的三分之一。

這類面對面的面談是極有效的，因為這能夠讓簽證官員隨時識破申請者的可疑動機和行為，而僅通過閱讀申請信件難以達到這種效果。然而，各種不足困擾著這個計劃，其中主要涉及的問題是資源有限、計劃不周以及簽證時間拖得過長。

SEVIS阻擋學生簽證

根據九一一事件以後通過的安全法律，美國各大學要在八月一日之前向聯邦政府國內安全部，以電腦連線方式，申報所有外籍學生的資料，預計將有一百二十萬的外籍學生學者的名字資料都將要及時登錄入檔，但在登錄過程中及電腦資料庫的誤失，極可能讓許多已拿到入學許可的外籍學生，卻無法及時得到簽證，來美就學。

目前各大學的職員正為此忙得不可開交。各大學抱怨說，假如處理申報資料的電腦系統出狀況，許多無辜的外國人可能無法到美國留學，而且原來已經在美國的外籍學生學者，也有被驅逐出境的危險。

九一一事件使國安部要求所有在美或是即將來美的外籍學生的人身資料，一律要登錄電腦，以便追蹤。

行政人員說，他們把資料輸入「學生與交換學者資訊服務」系統(SEVIS)，還是非常吃力。紐約大學國際學生與學人室主任史真斯說：「資料庫有缺陷，真是糟透了。」資料沒有登錄在SEVIS系統的外國人接受嚴格的調查，簽證才可延長。大學人事行政人員擔心，現在有的外籍學生可能雖然已有入學許可，但僅因名字沒有妥善登錄就無法獲美國駐外領館發放簽證。他們說，更糟糕的問題是有些外籍學生可能因此轉往其他國家留學，使日後可能在此地有影響力的人和美國產生緊張關係。

國務院表示，該機構已通過更多面談以及建立恐怖分子數據庫來加強簽證的審核。儘管情況有所改善，但這些手段並不能確保國務院對未來計劃有足夠準備。

舢舨



Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Mitt Romney Governor Kerry Healey Lt. Governor Daniel A. Grabauskas Secretary and MBTA Chairman Michael H. Mulhern General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Announces Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal
Tuesday, August 12, 2003 10:00 a.m.

State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza in Boston

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), hereby announces its FY'04 overall goal of 17 percent for its Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) program on Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) assisted contracts. The proposed overall goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours for 30 days following the date of this notice at 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Office of Diversity and Civil Rights, Room 5720. The Authority and DOT will accept comments for 45 days from the date of this notice.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's Office of Diversity and Civil Rights will be hosting a community meeting on **August 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at 10 Park Plaza**, in Conference room # 5, to solicit comments and input regarding the Authority's DOT FY'04 DBE goal, which will become effective October 1, 2003. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The facility is fully accessible to persons with disabilities. If assistive listening devices and/or sign language interpreters are needed, please call 711 (Massachusetts Relay Service) and request 617-222-4395. The requestor must call before **Friday, August 8th** to schedule an interpreter.

HEROIC GRACE: The Chinese Martial Arts Films

中國武俠電影展

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
August 2-31

Tickets:
\$8 MFA members, seniors, and students,
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www.mfa.org/film to order advance tickets.

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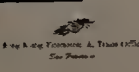
Screening Schedule:

Sat., Aug. 2 at 6:30 pm 紅俠 by Wen Yimin (1929)—Music by DJ C	Fri., Aug. 8, 8 pm Sat., Aug. 16, 3:45 pm 金燕子 by Zhang Che (1968)	Fri., Aug. 22, 6:30 pm Sun., Aug. 31, 2:20 pm 虎山行 by Wang Xinglei (1969)
Sat., Aug. 2, 8:30 pm 黃江女俠 by Chen Kengran, Zheng Yisheng & Shang Guanwu (1930) —Music by DJ C	Sat., Aug. 9, 2 pm Wed., Aug. 27, 6 pm 獨臂俠 by Zhang Che (1967)	Fri., Aug. 22, 8:30 pm Sun., Aug. 31, 4:15 pm 路客與刀客 by Zhang Zengze (1970)
Sun., Aug. 3, 1:30 pm 黃飛紅傳上集 by Wu Pang (1949)	Sat., Aug. 9, 4:10 pm Wed., Aug. 27, 8:10 pm 報仇 by Zhang Che (1970)	Sat., Aug. 23, 1:15 pm Fri., Aug. 29, 5:45 pm 少林三十六房 by Lau Kar-leung (1978)
Sun., Aug. 3, 3:30 pm 六指琴魔 by Chan Lit-ban (1965)	Fri., Aug. 15, 6 pm Sat., Aug. 30, 1 pm 愛奴 by Chu Yuan (1972)	Sat., Aug. 23, 3:30 pm Fri., Aug. 29, 8 pm 少林搭棚大師 by Lau-Kar-leung (1980)
Fri., Aug. 8, 6 pm Sat., Aug. 16, 2 pm 大醉俠 by King Hu (1966)	Fri., Aug. 15, at 7:45 pm Sat., Aug. 30, at 3 pm 刺馬 by Zhang Che (1973)	*no subtitles **subtitles provided

For more information, visit www.mfa.org/film



Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
65 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
www.mfa.org



新移民申請個人報稅號碼之風日盛

除了非法移民外，許多沒有社會安全號碼 (Social Security Number) 的新移民與外國人士，也逐漸熱中申請由國稅局核發的報稅身分號碼 (IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number)。他們一方面冀望藉由報稅來加速申請成為美國永久居民，一方面則希望可以享受到稅務減免或其他優惠。

據美聯社報導，五年前從墨西哥來美、現住舊金山的 Ernesto Cuellar 雖然仍無合法居留身分，但他還是在今年為其每小時九塊錢的油漆工收入報稅，他相信並希望，這種「坦白從寬」的精神有助於他早日申請成為美國永久居民。

使得非法移民愈來愈容易融入這個社會

Cuellar 報稅的管道就是利用國稅局核發的報稅身分號碼，這是許多不管是非法或合法移民在苦於社安號碼核發日漸嚴格的情況下，向國稅局填報「一」表格中請取得的識別號碼，而且某些州也允許這類號碼的持有人申請駕照，許多銀行也已准許持這類號碼的人開立銀行帳戶，使得非法移民愈來愈容易融入這個社會，不過，這也是許多人士批評美國移民政策的關鍵。

移民局在去年曾發出通知指出，這類居民向國稅局取得的報稅身分號碼，僅能代替社安號碼報稅，並不具有工作或移民權利。

非永久居民用來享受稅務減免額以及其他優惠的途徑

儘管如此，許多會計師指出，這類號碼據說也是非永久居民用來享受稅務減免額以及其他優惠的途徑，例如許多在美人士是美國公民或永久居民申請來美團聚的親屬，由於移民申請尚未獲得最後批准而未取得社安號碼，但是他們如果不報稅，申請團聚的納稅人便不能享有撫養的減免額。

此外，據了解，有不少台灣與中國大陸的投資人，無論在買賣房屋或出租房產時也都有報稅的問題，尤其是外國人出售房產時，過戶公司常預扣百分之三十的稅款，房主必須在年底報稅時申請超額預扣的稅款退稅，此時如果沒有社安號碼，外國籍屋主便須利用報稅身分號碼來申請退稅相同情況也可以應用在賭場贏錢時。

據統計，國稅局從一九九六年以來總共已核發了六百八十萬個報稅身分號碼，光是去年就核發了一百五十萬個，比兩千年成長了大約百分之五十八。

國稅局不可將這些納稅人的資料提供給移民局官員查看

由於政府部門並未統計有多少非法移民已申請這種九位數的報稅身分號碼，官員也指出，申請這種號碼的人士並不一定都是非法移民，其中有許多是外國學生或在美持臨時合法簽證的研究人士。根據法令，國稅局不可將這些納稅人的資料提供給移民局官員查看。

除了報稅之外，這個報稅身分號碼如今也衍生出其他的用途，例如開立銀行帳戶或申請駕照，使得全美為數估計達九百萬的非法移民問題，成了大眾討論的熱門話題，支持人士表示，這種作法有助整體社區的安全，批評人士則表示，非法移民因此更容易在此立足生根，但是他們根本就不應該在這裡生活的。

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國稅局最新的資料顯示，在兩千零一年有三十六萬六千個報稅案，是使用這種報稅身分號碼，而非傳統的社安號碼，報稅收入的總金額高達七十億元，繳給政府的稅金則有三億五百萬元。

富國銀行 (Wells Fargo)、花旗銀行 (Citibank) 與華盛頓互惠銀行 (Washington Mutual) 也已接受這類號碼開設銀行帳戶。

全國消費者法律中心 (National

Consumer Law Center) 的常駐律師 Chi

Chi Wu 說：「美國有龐大的非

法移民已是不爭的事實，他們在這裡擔

任其他人不該做的工作，如果他們最後

還是會待在這裡，我們最好提供他們銀

行帳戶，而不要讓他們隨身攜帶著龐大

現金，成為劫匪覬覦的目標。」他還贊

成國稅局這個報稅身分號碼，將來再發

揮更多的用途，例如提供非法移民房屋

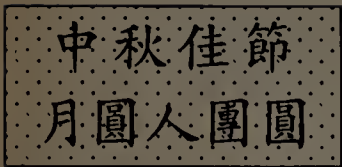
抵押其他的貸款服務。

此外，猶他州、羅德島與北卡州也都已開放這種號碼擁有人申請駕照，新墨西哥州則已通過法律，將於今夏比照辦理，其他諸如加州與伊利諾等州也都在考慮放這種措施。

彰顯出美國移民政策的缺乏

但是，一個西語裔團體 National Council of LaRaza 的移民政策分析師瓦茲林 (Michele Waslin) 也指出，這種

號碼的熱門，正彰顯出美國移民政策的缺乏。他說：「說真的，銀行、地方以及州政府早就應該做的，是提供一個務實的解決辦法，來面對已居住在我們社區中的居民。」



（本文由Globalbridge房屋仲介公司提供。Globalbridge房屋仲介公司要幫助國際學生和自外州來的朋友們找尋合適的租屋處。Globalbridge的房屋仲介人員能說英語、中文和俄語。網站：www.globalbridgerealty.com）

波士頓的很多學校都設有學生住宿輔導單位及租屋諮詢部門，從外地來的學生應好好利用。國際學生也可查詢所屬的同學會、同鄉會是否有室友的消息。

用審查等。

外地來的學生到波士頓找房子七月中就得開始

問：我在九月份到波士頓讀書，聽說在波士頓找房子很麻煩。而且英語並不是我的第一語言，所以在找房子方面，是否可以給我一些建議？

專家回答：當秋天降臨，數以千計的學生將會至波士頓就讀，對他們來說，首先要做的幾件事之一就是找個地方住。想要避開九月搬家熱潮，你應該在七月中左右就開始找尋九月一日開始租約的公寓；如果你無法那麼早開始找房子，那麼看到滿意的公寓時動作要快，因為多數搶手的公寓會在極短的時間內租出。

那麼在你開始找居住公寓前有什麼事要注意呢？首先，了解你本身的租屋需要，例如價格範圍、臥房和浴室的數目、木地板或是地毯，其他如洗衣設備、車位、寵物等。此外最好在租房子時所有的租客（你的室友們）能全員到齊，一起看房子。當你找到一個符合你條件的公寓時，可填寫租屋申請表，同時與租屋仲介合作完成所有手續，例如押金、信用審查等。

Best Wishes for A Happy August Moon

闔家歡樂

Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

為波士頓亞裔兒童服務的非牟利機構



To volunteer or refer your child
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or visit www.bigsister.org
Visit our main office in Boston
or our branch office in Quincy

所謂的「同類比較方式」是指派出兩組基本情況相同人員前去租、買房子

這個調查是在美國包括洛杉磯、紐約、三藩市、華盛頓特區等十一座城市進行的，而這些城市的亞裔人口數量佔全美國的百分之七十七。同時，這也是美國住房和城市發展部第一次在亞裔社區針對八百八十九個同類比較調查的基礎上做出的結論。HUD在一九七七年和一九八九年先後針對非洲裔和拉丁裔社區做過類似的調查。

HUD調查報告同類比較亞裔租房買房受歧視嚴重

美國住房和城市發展部(Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD)最新公佈的調查報告顯示，亞裔在租、買房屋時遭受的種族歧視和非洲裔以及拉丁裔遭受的歧視情況相似，這是美國住房和城市發展部第一次採用同類比較的方式(Paired-test)針對亞裔社區住房問題而做的調查。這個調查結果打破了亞裔作為「模範少數族裔」在住房問題上很少遭受種族歧視的神話。

他們一組為亞裔，另一組為白人。結果是，亞裔在租房時遭到的「持續敵意對待」(consistent adverse treat)為百分之二十一點五，亞裔在買房時遭到的「持續敵意對待」(consistent adverse treat)為百分之二十點四。而所謂「持續敵意對待」是目前最標準的衡量歧視水平的指數，它是指參加調查的少數族裔測試者和白人測試者比較，在十五個租、買房的經歷中遭受的一個或更多不愉快的對待。

HUD公平住房和機會部門助理秘書皮波斯(Carolyn Peoples)表示，這樣的調查可以逐漸改善美國在住房問題上的種族歧視情況。

1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home

您想在波士頓找到廉宜的家居置業嗎？
那您不要錯失這個良機！



無論您正在波士頓找新的還是修繕過的屋宇來做安樂窩，
1st Home 計劃都能為首次置業的您提供廉宜的價錢。

Dorchester, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roxbury, Mission Hill 及 South End 均有許多公寓大廈及個別家庭屋宇或多個家庭共住屋宇供選擇。

如欲索取詳細資料及計劃表格請瀏覽我們的網頁：
www.cityofboston.gov/dnd/C_1st_home.asp

或致電波士頓置業中心：617-635-HOME(4663)。

參加此計劃者必須先附合參加資格並經過優先次序安排再以抽籤形式選出合此計劃資格的買家

1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home 1st home



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor - City of Boston
Charlotte Golar Richie, Chief and Director - Department of Neighborhood Development



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- Household size cannot exceed two persons
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Management Company at the Covenant House, 30 Washington
Street, Brighton, MA.

Thursday, August 14th from 9am-8pm
Friday, August 15th from 4pm-8pm
Saturday, August 16th from 9am-1pm

Deadline for completed applications is
August 25, 2003, 5pm

Selection by Lottery
Maximum Waitlist is 200

Managed by Barkan Management Company

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Boston's Hope
(near Franklin Field in Dorchester)
10 units total

Six 3 bdrms \$1,592/ per month (月租)
four 4 bdrms \$1,866/per month (月租)

Rent is 30% of household adjusted gross income 房租為收入的 30%

請往以下地址領取申請表

Applications available from:

7/28/03 - 8/8/03, M-F, 10 AM - 3 PM

In person at Boston Aging Concerns Young and Old United (BACYOU)
67 Newbury Street, 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116

申請截止日: 8/8/2003

Deadline for completed applications: 8/8/03

收入應該少於波士頓中等收入的 50%

Maximum Income Limit of 50% Boston Median Income

3 persons	36,350	6 persons	46,850
4 persons	40,400	7 persons	50,100
5 persons	43,650	8 persons	53,350

If you are interested in providing a home for foster children and/or adopting, you may be eligible for occupancy in Boston's Hope. All units are Project Based Section 8. Only candidates who are already on or can be placed on the Boston Housing Authority's waiting list or candidates who have a BHA Section 8 voucher will be eligible. Applicants must meet The Home for Little Wanderers criteria for Adopting/Fostering children. Handicap household has preference for wheelchair-accessible unit. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

For more information, contact BACYOU, 617-266-2257



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- 平價移民案 (如不成功退還收費)
- 生活擔保書·授權書·證明書
- 獨身證明書·公證婚姻·報稅
- 稅務顧問·法庭改姓名·商店會計
- 成立公司·樓業及生意買賣·租約
- 辦遺囑·入籍文件·留學生入學手續
- 回美證及轉換永久綠卡等

社區簡訊

101 華埠華埠 (617) 542-2571

· 八月三日的「第六屆華埠聯歡節」，係以弘揚中華文化藝術、繁榮華埠、促進主流社會對華埠的認識為宗旨，主辦單位的主席團成員包括：紐英崙中華總會會長陳統禮、波士頓華商會會長梅錫銳、華埠主街計畫主席余麗瑛、僑領黃述浩等，市長曼寧諾則將出任大會名譽主席。

所有活動在整個華埠開放空間內舉行，可免費前來參觀。當晚六時卅分，主辦單位則另將於華埠帝苑酒家舉辦慶祝餐會，有關詳情或報名可電 (617) 338-1686。

· 八月十七日的「第卅四屆華埠中秋慶祝節」，由紐英崙中華公所主辦，預計於當天上午十時起至下午五時，在華埠中心地段街道舉行。

有意參與協辦、提供表演、預定攤位或在特刊上刊登廣告者，可於八月十

· 中華總商會將於八月八日 (星期六) 上午九時至下午四時，在波士頓市中心華埠主街 52 號 2 樓，邀請多位嘉賓，包括波士頓市長曼寧諾、波士頓華商會會長梅錫銳、波士頓華埠計畫主席余麗瑛、僑領黃述浩等，將接受英語測試及面試 (持有卡或工卡及工人卡)。

活動地點在中華總商會 (20 Shawmut St./Boston) · 免費入場，詳情及預約可電 (617) 482-2541 或小姐。

· 華美福利會再度推出免費物業維修訓練課程：如果你想於學校、醫院、辦公室或私人樓宇從事物業維修，此課程可幫助你實現獲得一份高薪、穩定及福利佳的好工作之夢想。

· 使外國人出境管制單位及航空公司人員能正確辨識中華民國護照，將自今年 (西元兩千零三年) 正式發行封面加註「TAIWAN」之新版護照。旅外國人現持護照，無論所餘效期長短，均可申請換發。至現行護照於有效期間，將同時並用且繼續有效。

詳情請洽駐波士頓臺北經濟文化辦事處領務組。電話: 617-737-2050。

重新接受處方藥物優惠計劃的申請 年齡在六十六歲或以上填表日期八月二十五日止

【本報波士頓報導】麻州政府預算刪減，有關移民「麻州健保」(Mass Health)將於本月終止，以及永久居留身分不滿五年的移民，其白卡(麻州醫療補助)可能中斷的消息，本報日前訪問了華人醫務中心社會服務部主任馬秀文。

馬秀文指出，有關老人醫療保險方面最主要的變動有兩項，一是白卡的改變，另一是重新接受處方藥物優惠計劃的，將令不少人受到影響或受益。

白卡的改變，將有約一萬人左右會失去該項醫療補助，這些人包括：永久居民身份少於五年者；正在申請政治庇護者；正在申請永久居民身份者。她說，這些受影響的人士，如果原已經有白卡，其類別是「基本類」或「家庭輔助類」的，可能降至「限制類」，即只包括急診。如果不知道自己屬於何種白卡，可向麻州醫療補助客戶服務部詢問，電話為：1-800-841-2900。

受影響的人士可向各醫院或醫療中心申請免費或減費醫療。這種免費或減費醫療，是專門為無任何醫療保險的人士而提供。對於需要醫療照顧，但本身又無能力支付費用者，各醫院或醫療中心所提供的免費或減費服務項目有所不同，所以，須具體向各醫院或醫療中心詢問。

重新接受處方藥物優惠計劃(Prescription Advantage)的申請，這是一項廉宜的處方藥物保險計劃，提供給麻州六十五歲以上的居民，以及六十五歲以下的低收入殘障人士。凡已接受白卡者不能參加此項計劃。該計劃的承保範圍不設上限，而每年的自付費用有最高限額，使參加該計劃者，免受高額處方藥物費用之苦。

該計劃由麻州政府設立，並由麻州老人局管理實施。詳情可上網查詢 www.800ageinfo.com。以上資料如有疑問，可聯絡華人醫務中心社會服務部。此外，中華頤養院針對老人醫療保險方

面，政府改變項目事宜及因應之道，將在該院舉辦講座，敦請華人醫務中心社會服務部主任馬秀文以華語主講，可免費參加，時間是七月三十一日上午九時三十分在中華頤養院，地址：120 Shawmut Street, Boston, MA 02118。聯絡人：譚秀婷 617-482-2541。華人醫務中心向有需要的人士提供社會服務，請親臨或致電波士頓 617-482-7555 或 昆西市 617-745-0280

(附圖為處方藥物優惠計劃的申請條件和時間)

申請條件	申請時間
1. 年齡足 65 歲至 66 歲前	任何時候
2. 年齡在 66 歲或以上	2003 年 8 月 1 日至 31 日 (填表日期 8 月 25 日止)
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少數民族秋節寄情

歲歲花相似，年年月不同；中國是個多民族的國家，少數民族的中秋習俗，與漢族比較顯得更加別致。那些少數民族是怎樣過中秋呢？

傣族夜行「拜月」：雲南的傣族人中秋佳節之夜行「拜月」活動。

在傣族神話中，傳說月亮是天皇的三兒子岩尖變的。岩尖剛強英武，曾領導傣族人打敗敵人，岩尖死後變成了月亮，又為傣族帶來了光明。所以，傣族人要在中秋夜用食品等拜月。

中秋晚上，當月亮升起時，傣族人在房頂上放置一小方桌，四個桌角各放一個糯米圓餅，每個餅上插一支點燃的冷香，同時對空鳴放火藥槍，男女老少

齊行「拜月禮」，然後圍坐在一起，吃餅賞月，直到夜半。

壯族米餅拜月：壯族習慣於在河中的竹排上用米餅拜月，少女在水面放花燈，以測一生的幸福，並演唱優美的《請月姑》民歌。

朝鮮族搭望月架：朝鮮族則用木桿和松枝高搭望月架，先請老人上架探月，然後點燃望月架，敲長鼓，吹洞簫，一起合跳《農家樂舞》。

仡佬族中秋夜祭祖先：仡佬族在節前的「虎日」，全寨合宰一頭公牛，將牛心留到中秋夜祭祖先，迎新谷，他們稱為「八月節」。

侗族趕坪節，表情意：則在這時讓青年人郊遊、歡會，稱為「趕坪節」。第一天是蘆笙會，第二天對歌。小夥子都要化粧，向心上人表達情意。

黎族歌舞聚會：黎族稱中秋節為「八月會」或「調聲節」。屆時各集鎮舉行歌舞聚會，每村由調聲頭（即領隊）率領男女青年參加。人員到齊後，大家互贈月餅、香糕、甜粿、花巾、彩扇和背心，成群結隊，川流不息。入夜便聚集在火旁，烤食野味，痛飲米酒，開展盛大的調聲對歌演唱，未婚青年趁機挑選未來的伴侶。

納西族「跳月」：雲南納西族有「跳月」習俗。

中秋之夜，該族各村寨的男女老少聚集在山區的開闊地帶跳舞，腰束白紗的少女和頭纏布帶的少男在皎潔的月光下邊舞邊唱，互訴衷情。

蒙古族「追月」：中秋節夜晚，蒙古族愛做「追月」遊戲，蒙古族同胞不論男女老少都跨上駿馬，在銀白月光下，奔馳在遼闊的草原上，他們朝西放馬，不到月亮西下「追月」不會不止。

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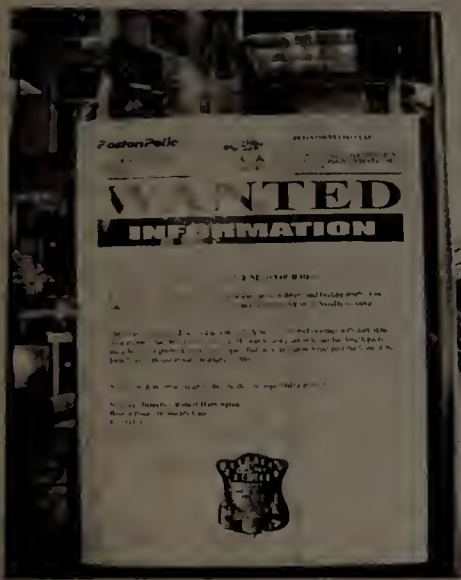
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（警方於華埠附近的商家門口貼上罪犯通緝公告，告訴民眾，幫忙找七月二十七日清晨發生在Tamworth街上的搶劫暨謀殺案之兇手。據警方罪犯通緝公告敘述，兇手為二十五歲左右的黑人男子，案發後迅速往華盛頓街之方向逃逸。

Bill Moy表示，「治安的巨題越來越嚴重了，這些搶劫的罪犯都持刀械犯案」。負責華埠一家老人院的Ruth Moy表示「這真是太糟了，這真是整個社區必需要注意的問題。」波士頓警局表示，近期將派更多警力在這個社區。

華埠上週日發生搶劫謀殺事件 社區治安令人擔憂宜加強警力巡邏

華埠社區安全會議的協調人 Bill Moy 表示，「犯罪事件是最近兩次安全會議中主要的討論內容。」令人感到沮喪的是社區的搶劫事件在這兩個月由六件增加到十一件。

這是今年波士頓的第二十一件謀殺案。據警方表示，Sheng Hao Tang 被找到時，全身是血、且有嚴重的頭部受傷。

一位居住在波士頓的華裔老人 Sheng Hao Tang 之屍體，於七月二十七日早上七點五十一分被發現在華埠聯結益石街及拉冠街 (La Grange) 的 Tamworth 街上。兇手在逃中，波士頓警局正展開全面通緝中。



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從波城來請走九號公路往有魯克蘭，從布魯克蘭(Brookline)走一號公路往南接VFW，看到Baker街右轉再直走約1,200尺，入口處在左邊。(如看到Home Depot就過了)

從128/95北邊來請接上九號公路繼續往東走約兩哩，會看到Parker街，上坡右轉，在Parker街上走0.6哩接上Dedham街左轉直走兩哩(在右手邊)。從128/95南邊來，走109東，往東走兩哩後，接一號公路上VFW Parkway左轉第二個紅綠燈Baker街左轉，再直走1,200尺(在左邊)。

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紐英崙中華公所於七月二十七日舉行歡送紐約總領事張宏喜大使榮調回國餐會。出席餐會者有中華公所議員、僑胞七十多人。陪同張大使夫婦一同參與餐會的還有黃惠康副總領事及其夫人、曾小華領事、宋躍進領事、董傳杰領事及楊東領事。

中華公所主席黃兆祥致詞時，讚揚張宏喜大使在四年任內期間，出席或委派副座出席波士頓僑教活動，突破橋社百年歷史。

張宏喜致詞時表示，「任職的這四年，美國、中國境內及世界的其他地方都經過很多變化。尤其遭九一一恐怖襲擊，對美國安定是個很大的打擊。值得安慰的是此後，中美雙方關係改善，兩個團結一致反恐。地方也在改進中。

都有抗爭。作什麼事都有人反對。但我認為只要立定目標，努力看誰最後受支持才是最重要的。混亂是一個災難，我們應該團結一致，發展經濟，造福所有人們。」最後張宏喜祝「中華公所越辦越好。華僑事業發達，家庭幸福」。

最後該公所行政總裁周西民、行政主任司徒秉權、中華僑立學校、廣州聯誼會等並致贈感謝狀和紀念冊給張宏喜。

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眼最忌似睡非睡，非哭非笑，在講話時語對人眼不對人，喜歡兩眼望向地下，相學上叫做顛下言除，又喜歡左望右望，這種人一定心有所思，不能作朋友，遠離為佳，在行眼運的六年期間，波折反覆，猶如一場春夢。

每朝早起床洗面，梳透時順便照一照鏡子，看看自己的眼睛，有無一條又粗又直的紅筋直射向黑色瞳孔，如果有，依眼相學來講，叫做「赤脈貫瞳子」。當你駕車外出或開車回家，你要記住我的忠言：切勿扒頭鬥快，意外受傷的事不時會有機會降臨在你身上。

上個月有個客人到我這裡看面相，我就看出他這樣的面相。他亦承認，「上個月我撞車，但幸無受傷。」

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波士頓成人語文教育基金會獎學金 六名華美福利會獲獎學生 今秋入大學就讀

波士頓成人語文教育基金會 (BALF, Boston Adult Literacy Funds) 六月十七日下午於波士頓市府舉行獎學金頒獎典禮，二十三名得獎人由市長曼寧諾手中接過獎狀和獎金。這些獲獎的人當中有七名華裔，他們各自來自華埠的成人英語教育機構。華美福利會 (AACA) 的英語進階班就有六名學生獲獎。他們分別是陳亮峰、甘秀冰、賈士偉、劉艷嬌、吳志銳與朱木波。

波士頓成人語文教育基金會每年頒發獎學金鼓勵那些克服英語障礙而進入美國一般學院就讀的傑出新移民。這些獲獎的學生都是經過主辦單位審核其申請表及推薦信而選出。

曼寧諾首先恭喜每位得獎人，讚許他們能在來自不同地方，說著不同語言的背景，克服各種困難而獲得該獎學金。他表示，波士頓是一個多元文化城市，因此成人英語教育格外重要。他很高興這些得獎人們犧牲個人享受，作出繼續接受教育的正確選擇。

該基金會表示，這二十三名得獎人都是將於今年秋季進入大專院校唸書的新鮮人，每人可獲得一千元獎學金。這些獲獎人當中有許多已經擁有家庭，或工作多年，他們願意回到學校就讀，實屬難得。

曾獲得該基金會幫助的 Ernst Best 於頒獎典禮中擔任演講嘉賓，他提到以往唸書面臨許多困難，他特別感謝該基金會的幫忙，讓他完成在麻州大學及麻省理工學院的學業，並有今日工作成就。Best 目前是麻州成人語文聯盟 (the Massachusetts Alliance for Adult Literacy) 的執行主任。

Verizon 是贊助這個獎學金的廠商之一。其發言人 Mary Rafferty 表示，「幫助這些新移民進入更高層的學習階段是我們最重要的投資項目之一。」

華美福利會獲獎學生表示能得到該獎學金感到十分開心和興奮，認為努力沒有白費，亦感謝他們的老師給予他們包括寫作等多方面的協助。

華美福利會英語進階班的得獎同學於獲獎後開心地和親友合影，分享喜悅。



(麻州參議院 DiAnne Wilkerson 蒞臨華美福利會及舢舨雙週報，並祝本報讀者中秋愉快)

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中秋起源

中秋節是遠古天象崇拜——敬月習俗的遺痕。到底中國何時開始有拜月、賞月的習俗，我們且來看看中國歷史中的敘述。

據《周禮·春官》記載，周代已有「中秋夜迎寒」、「秋分西月（拜月）」的活動。

漢代，又在中秋或立秋之日敬老、養老，賜以雄雞餅。東漢，傑出的科學家張衡已經知道月光來自日光的反射。

東晉鎮西將軍謝尚，鎮守江渚（今安徽鞍山市），曾在中秋夜換上便服，帶了隨從泛舟長江。當他聽到鄰舟吟詩聲，詩美聲清，就過舟相訪，與舟中的袁宏共吟。這件事成為佳話。但此時中秋還未成為民間重視的節日。

直到唐代將中秋與儲娥奔月、吳剛伐桂、玉兔搗藥、楊貴妃變月神、唐明皇遊月宮等神話故事結合起，方使之充滿浪漫色彩，玩月之風大興。

北宋，正式定八月十五為中秋節，並出現「小餅如嚼月，中有酥和飴」的節令食品。孟元老《東京夢華錄》說：「中秋夜，貴家結飾臺榭，民間爭佔酒樓玩月，而且「旋重鼎沸，近內延居民，深夜達旦聞笙芋之聲，宛如雲外。間裏兒童，連宵嬉戲；夜市駢闐，至於通曉。」

吳自牧《夢梁錄》說：「此際金鳳薦爽，玉露生涼，丹桂香飄，銀蟾光滿。王孫公子，富家巨室，莫不登危樓，臨軒玩月，或開廣榭，玳筵羅列，琴瑟鏗鏘，酌酒高歌，以卜竟夕之歡。至如鋪席之家，亦登小月臺，安排家宴，團圓圍子，以酬佳節。雖陋巷貧窶之人，解農市酒，勉強迎歡，不肯虛度。此夜天街賣買，直至五鼓，玩月遊人，婆娑於市，至燒不絕。」

更有意思的是，《新編醉翁談錄》記述拜月之俗：「傾城人家子女不以貧富能自行至十二三，皆以成人之眼掩飾之，登樓或中庭焚香拜月，各有所願；男則願早步蟾宮，高攀仙桂。；女則願貌似嫦娥，圓如皓月。」

明清兩朝的賞月活動，盛行不衰。「其祭果餅必圓；各家都要設，月光位，在月出方向月供拜拜」。

陸啓泓《北京歲華記》載：「中秋夜，人家各置月宮符象，符上免如人立；陳瓜果於庭，餅面繪月宮蟾兔；男女肅拜燒香，旦而焚之。」

田汝成《西湖遊覽志餘》云：「是夕，人家有賞月之宴，或攜柏湖船，沿遊徹曉。蘇堤之上，聯袂踏歌，無異白日；民間以月餅相邀，取團圓之義」。

中秋吃月餅。最先見於宋代蘇東坡的「小餅如雪月，中有酥與飴」之句。唐和五代時賞月的食品只見有「玩月羹」，未見有月餅。

月餅作為一種食品的名稱並同中秋賞月聯繫在一起，始見於南宋的《武林舊事》。明代以來，有

關中秋賞月吃月餅的記述就更多了。《宛署雜記》說，每到中秋，百姓們都製作面餅，大小不等，稱為「月餅」。市場店舖裏賣的月餅，多用果類作餡。巧名異狀，有的月餅一個要值數百錢。

《熙朝樂事》裏也說，八月十五日稱為中秋，民間以月餅作為禮品互相贈送，取團圓之意。這一天晚上，家家舉行賞月助家宴，或者帶上裝月餅的食盒和酒盞到湖邊去通宵遊賞。在西湖蘇堤上，人們成羣結隊，載歌載舞，通宵達旦。從這些記載中，可以看到杭州百姓中秋夜賞月的盛況。

長期以來中國人民對製作月餅積累了豐富的經驗，月餅的種類也越來越多

月餅的典故

富察敦崇《燕京歲時記》稱：「中秋月餅，以前門致美齋者為京都第一，他處不足食也。呈供月餅到處皆有。大者尺餘，上繪月宮蟾兔之形。」每屆中秋，府第朱門皆以月餅果品相饋贈。至十五月圓時，陳瓜果於庭以供月，並祀以毛豆、雞冠花。是時也，皓魄當空，彩雲初散，傳杯洗盞，兒女喧嘩，真所謂佳節也。唯供月時男子多不叩拜。同時這五百多年中還推出「燒門香」、「走月亮」、「放天燈」、「樹中秋」、「點塔燈」、「舞燈籠」、「曳石」、「賣兔兒爺」慶活動；其中的賞月，吃月餅、團圓飯等習俗，一直流傳到今天。

，手藝越來越講究。鹹、甜、葷、素各俱異味；光面、花邊，各有特色。明末彭蘊章在《幽州土風俗》中寫道：「月宮餅，制就銀蟾紫府影，一雙瞻兔滿人間。悔然嫩娥竊藥平。奔入廣寒歸不得，空勞至杵駐丹顏。」這說明心靈手巧的廚師已經把嫦娥奔月的優美傳說，製作為食品藝術圖案形象再現於月餅之上。

清代富察敦崇《燕京歲時記》也有「至供月餅，到處皆有，大者尺餘。足見古代月餅從內容到形式已是百花齊放了。」



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中秋淒美傳說：嫦娥奔月

中秋節晚上，清風拂面，秋蟲唧唧，天氣涼爽，當一輪圓月從東方漸漸升起的時候，老人們帶著兒孫在庭院裏擺上桌椅，桌上陳列著各種瓜果，如西瓜，甜瓜，棗，梨，蘋果，石榴，葡萄，山楂，栗子等，以及各種月餅、毛豆、芋頭之類的熱食品。

一家人一邊品嚐月餅，西瓜，一邊觀賞天上的皎潔明月。月餅盒子上那極別致，又富有人情味的兔爺爺和兔奶奶，以及向月亮上飛去的仙女嫦娥，引起孩子們的好奇和興趣。老人們會指著月宮，講著娓娓動聽的故事。

相傳天宮裏有個叫嫦娥的仙女。他是天帝的姪女，嫁給一個叫后羿的神仙，兩人過著快樂的生活。那時天上有十個太陽，把地上的莊稼都烤得枯萎了。

天帝決定派后羿去除掉九個太陽，幫助人類消滅地面上的猛獸和害蟲。嫦娥也跟著去了。到了人間，后羿把嫦娥安置在山洞裏，自己去射太陽，除猛獸了。嫦娥獨自一個人呆在山洞裏，感到很寂寞。

這天清晨，嫦娥抬頭看天空，只剩一個太陽了。她想，后羿一定完成了天帝的使命，快要回來了，高興地跳起舞來。她剛起步要往上飛舞，感到腿和身體不靈活。以前能騰雲駕霧，可是來到人間後，一點兒也飛不起來啦！不免十分著急。這時，人間的皇帝竟帶著百姓來慰問嫦娥，還親自帶著百姓伐木，為她造屋。

后羿終於回來了。他推開門一看，嫦娥正盤坐在席上垂淚。怎麼回事？原來，嫦娥一直為自己不能飛上天而傷心呢。后羿見狀，就安慰她說：「不要傷心，西王母那兒有長生不老藥，我去討點來吃。留在人間長生不老，這比飛到天上過寂寞的生活好多了。」嫦娥一聽可以長生不老，也就不哭了，催著后羿上路。

后羿歷經艱險，終於來到崑崙山西王母皇宮。西王母知道后羿的來意，拿

出藥來說：「吃一服藥可以長生不老，吃兩服藥還可以升天，回到天上做神仙。」

后羿決心留在人間，繼續為人類做好事，就向西王母討了兩副藥丸。幾個月後，后羿終於回到了家裏。嫦娥見后羿真的討來長生不老藥，高興得不得了，恨不得馬上吃下去。后羿對妻子說：「別忙，明天是個好日子，月亮特別圓，我倆一道吃。」

後來后羿實在太累，倒在席上很快就睡熟了。夜深了，嫦娥再也睡不著。她爬起來把那兩副藥丸拿在手裏。她想，后羿對他說過，吃一服藥留在人間長生不老，吃兩服藥就可以回到天上過神仙日子。

忽然，嫦娥一咬牙，仰起脖子把手中兩副藥丸一起吞了下去。她趕緊走出大門外。月亮圓圓地掛在天空，她覺得自己的身子輕飄飄的，直向天宮飛去。

守在南天門的門神，看見嫦娥飛來了不放她進去。嫦娥只好求門神向天帝報個訊。不一會兒，門神帶來天帝的聖旨，說嫦娥偷偷回到天宮，犯了罪，就罰她到廣寒宮去，永遠不許她出來。

這真是晴天霹靂！她不敢違抗天帝的命令，只好傷心地朝月宮飄去。她耳邊不時聽到天宮傳來的鼓樂聲，可是她再也不能回到天宮裏去，而只能在那終年寂寞的廣寒宮裏渡日子。

唐代詩人李商隱在《嫦娥》這首詩裏寫道：

雲母屏風燭影深，長河漸落曉星辰。
嫦娥應悔偷靈藥，碧海青天夜夜心。

這首詩並沒有說嫦娥樂於成仙的事，而是寫她因著寂寞而後悔的心情。詩的意思是：嫦娥偷偷吃了不死的仙丹，孤單單地在那碧海般的青天上，每天每夜在想些什麼呢？所以，她每逢中秋節時，總要走出廣寒宮，向人間遙望一番。在廣寒宮裏，陪伴著她的是一只搗藥的白兔、一只蟾蜍和一棵高大的桂樹。

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建設計劃必須尊重社區居民的文化和生活形態

根據邵博士近一年對華埠的研究，舢舨記者問他能否對目前在社區內的建設計劃有所建議？邵表示，「這些計劃在某些方面確實能帶來好處，如美化環境、改善治安等。但要獲得一個高質素的「居住」環境，更重要的一點還是在重建時必須尊重及維護社區居民的文化和生活形態，而並不是單蓋一些華麗的、但卻與原居民生活形態相違的建築物，強迫居民改變原有的生活方式。」並且，一項重建計劃若欠缺了對原有居民的重視和照顧，最終只會使原有社區瓦解和經濟能力較低的一群被迫遷移。因此，邵強調在社區重建過程中，必須容讓社區各階層參與，諮詢他們意見，這樣才可以獲得一個「以人為本」的

者的個人做作，未能切合原本社區文化、居民的生活需要；有些公園周圍則高樓大廈林立，或位置偏遠，以致人們不願久留或不便前往。並且，因管理的關係，很多公園的使用方式都附帶許多束縛使用者的規條，以致其開放性和公共性不足夠，使人卻步。」

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富布賴特學者計劃研究波士頓華人社區

採訪：張孟筠

邵健偉博士：城市規劃與設計應注重公共空間對社區的重要

香港理工大學設計學院邵健偉博士 (Dr. Kin-wai Michael Siu) 去年獲頒獎成為美國政府的富布賴特學者 (Fulbright Scholar)。富布賴特學者計劃的宗旨在支持美國學者到國外或外國學者到美國作研究。申請對項以往主要以國家公民為單位，然而去年開始頒發給香港的學者，第一批獲獎學者共四名。身為其中一名獲獎學者，邵健偉博士選擇麻省理工學院為駐校研究室，「華裔的居住環境」為研究範圍。邵健偉強調，「我所研究的對象是那些處於中低收入戶的華裔之居住環境，研究主題是公共空間 (public space)，因為公共空間對生活在華埠擠迫室內空間的居民尤為重要」。

邵健偉：公共空間與中國人的日常生活息息相關，但相關研究少。邵健偉指出雖然自古以來公共空間與中國人的日常生活息息相關，但在這方面的研究卻很少，而針對華埠公共空間的研究就更見貧乏。邵健偉在波士頓華埠用上年的時間，與長期駐紮在華埠公共空間的使用者（主要是居民）打成一片，觀察他們的動態言行，跟他們交談。除了一般的研究方法如文獻收集、正式訪談、密集式觀察、面談外，邵健偉還透過「影像發聲」 (Photovoice) 研究法，讓波士頓華埠居民參與研究，表達他們對居住環境的評價和提議。

「影像發聲」讓被研究對象有更多內容分享

邵表示，「我給每一個被邀請的研究對象一個立可拍相機（又稱一次性照相機），讓他們拍攝自己的日常生活與環境。然後利用這些照片作為話題，我會與他們交談華埠的生活環境。經驗告訴我，利用影像發聲研究法，被研究者會有更多、更具體的內容分享。」

邵健偉根據數據表示，華裔移民至美國歷史長久。因語言、文化的相同，和在一起生活。由於早期的移民和聚居，

美國的華埠多是在城市的中心地帶，亦即城市中較早期發展地區。然而近期這些大城市因發展需要都相繼作出重建 (redevelopment)，位於市中心或鄰近的華埠無可避免地受到影響，如「華埠市中心化」、「華埠商業化」、「華埠面積縮小化」等。邵舉出首都 Washington D.C. 的華埠為例，雖然它擁有全世界最闊的華埠牌樓，在華埠當中仍可找到中國式餐館，但整個社區已成為現代商園，失卻了原有華埠的特色。



公共空間：充滿互動，最具生命力的地方

邵健偉強調公共空間 (public space) 的重要性，「公共空間的基本精神和意義在於人們在那裡可以自由聚集、互相交談、交換資訊；亦是城市空間中充滿互動，最具生命力的地方。社區裡有一些地方你可以看到人來人往的情況，但並不表示這些地方就稱得上是公共空間。如醫院、戲院、超級市場、商場、主題公園等，這些空間的用途通常已被規範、特定、或商業化，進行自由互動的可能性非常低。並且，城市中可能有許多空置空間 (empty space)，但不一定有許多公共空間。」

Edward Wong Square 時華埠最繁忙的公共空間

邵健偉作過調查，問波士頓華埠居民那一個部分（或建築、地方）在這個社區最有代表性，超過百分之八十的受訪者回答是「牌樓」。根據對華埠居民日常生活的實際觀察，邵認為無可否認「牌樓」是華埠最具象徵性的地方，但位於必珠街及夏里臣街的 Edward Wong Square，則是華埠最繁忙的地方，亦是最緊扣著居民日常生活的公共空間。每日都有許多人到那裡等待到紐約的長途巴士、等待中國餐館接送員工的接送車；有很多人則以那裡為一個重要地標等候朋友；亦有一些居民只是到那裡閒逛，找機會與鄉里、街坊交談。反之一般人所說的公共（或開放）空間如牌樓公園 (Chinatown Gate Park) 常成為流浪漢聚集之地，大同公園總是清靜得讓人懷疑「有多少人會時常到那裡活動？」

華埠的公共空間非常有限

總結一年的研究，邵健偉指出波士頓華埠的公共空間是非常有限，很需要作出改善。但如何作出改善則是一個需要慎重考慮的課題。邵表示，「根據以往的研究經驗，在都市重建時，很多政府和專業人士都會留意到人們的休閒需要而建議多設休憩地方。這些建議原則上是好的，但這些建議未必一定切合居民需要，或令居民的生活質素得到改善。舉例來說，有些公園的設計只是專業



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